Hafa Adai!

DPS still investigating case of Matson crew who died at sea. **PAGE 2**

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$19M more of PUA out, second batch of child tax in the works

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Finance began releasing yesterday $19 million in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and has started working on the second batch of child tax refunds or rebates.

Atalig

Speaking at a radio news briefing last Friday, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig said he is not privy to the different PUA administrative issues that the community usually asks about but, as far as what Finance has done in the last week, they drew down an additional $19 million that would hopefully be released first thing Monday (yesterday).

"…We sent out a test deposit with zero funds just to make sure that the accounts are accurate," he said.

Atalig said when a person receives zero transaction in their direct deposits, that's a

See $19M on Page 4

HOPWOOD FENCE RECONSTRUCTION

Construction workers are seen repairing the damage on the roadside fence of Hopwood Middle School, which were damaged back in October 2018 during the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu. According to the project supervisor, reconstruction began three weeks ago and is expected to be completed very soon.

NEIL FAMA

Restrictions on travel to the US lifted

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Non-U.S. citizens who used to be restricted from traveling to the United States if they are coming from mainland China and other countries may now do so after the U.S. Department of Homeland Security lifted the restrictions that were put in place in January.

U.S. acting secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf lifted yesterday the restrictions of arrivals into

See US on Page 4

CUC, CHCC agree on payment deal

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. have come to terms on a payment plan that will allow CHCC to continue operating with no power disruption and CUC will start collecting from CHCC over $34 million in arrears.

Both the CHCC board of trustees and CUC board of directors met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Attorney General Edward Manibu-

See CUC on Page 4

Traveler tests positive for COVID-19

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

A day after the CNMI logged its 60th case, one more traveler tested positive for the novel coronavirus yesterday, raising the CNMI's total to 61.

According to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the traveler was identified through travel screening and was confirmed COVID-19 positive through testing upon arrival. CHCC brought the passenger to the designated government facility, which is the Kanoa Resort in Susupe. CHCC has already initiated contact tracing for passengers on the same flight, close family members, and friends.

See TRAVELER on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Sept. 14, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	1,891	0	1,891
Recovered	1,118	0	1,118
Active	748	0	748
Deaths	26	0	26
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		43,169	

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	60	1	61
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		14,375*	

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted to not report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Kinpachi Restaurant, the islands' oldest Japanese restaurant, is turning 40 today.

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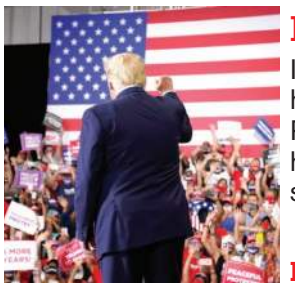

NATION
In open defiance of health guidelines, President Trump hosts his first indoor rally since June.

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LIFE & STYLE
Perfume company Jo Malone apologizes to John Boyega for cutting him out of a cologne ad.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

DPS still investigating case of Matson crew who died at sea

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is keeping open the case of the 59-year-old man who was found dead aboard a Matson ship that was en route to Guam.

DPS spokesperson Dre Pangelinan said in a statement that DPS continues to investigate the case because the only documents they received about the body was its COVID-19 test result in Guam, which stated he's death was not COVID-19-related.

"Authorities on Saipan inspected documents pertaining to the procedures done in Guam, but the only documentation that could be provided pertaining the deceased individual was the documentation stating that the individual tested negative from the virus. Due to no documentation of the time of death or the cause of death, DPS will be conducting further investigation pertaining to this incident," he said.

Pangelinan also said in a statement to *Saipan Tribune* that there was no mishandling that happened with the body, just basic protocol.

"There was no mishandling done by DPS. We were notified that there was a deceased body on the vessel that did not have any documentation of time of death or cause of death. Due to that, DPS had to investigate as to why no documentation could be provided. The captain was questioned and crew members were questioned, just as we would have done if any other vessel came in to port under the same circumstances," he said.

This was in reaction to a Matson Inc. statement that said the body of the crewmember was not handled properly by CNMI authorities and was not shown the respect that Matson and his family expected since they have yet to release the body to the family.

Pursuant to DPS protocols, if an investigation remains ongoing, the body of a deceased person remains under DPS custody at the Commonwealth Health Center.

According to a DPS press release, DPS received transmission via radio at about 12:05pm last Thursday about a dead individual aboard an incoming vessel. Police units immediately responded to the Port of Saipan. At about 12:21pm, police arrived at the dock and interviewed the captain and crew. The captain of the vessel stated that on Tuesday, Sept. 8, at about 4:30pm, he noticed the crew member lying on the floor in his room. He said that the individual had no pulse and was not breathing and he immediately notified other members aboard the ship about the incident. He returned to the room with some crew members and they tried to revive the man, to no avail. The captain also used a flashlight to shine a light on the individual's eyes to see if their pupils would dilate but it did not. The captain and crew then left the individual in the room until they arrived on Guam the following day, Sept. 9, at about 7am.

The captain of the vessel notified the Guam Police Department, Customs, the Coast Guard, the Guam Fire Department, and the Center for Disease Control. The captain of the vessel stated that personnel from the Guam COVID-19 task force came aboard the vessel and tested the individual for the virus before GFD personnel secured the body of the individual in a body bag and placed it in a refrigerated container.

On Thursday, Sept. 10, at about 11am, the vessel arrived at the Saipan seaport with the body for an autopsy.

IPI faces another lawsuit

A law firm is suing Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC for breach of contract, saying the casino company owes it over $120,000.

The law firm of Banes Horey Berman and Miller LLC filed a lawsuit against IPI for breach of contract, implied breach of contract, and quantum meruit with the District Court for the NMI last week.

According to the lawsuit, IPI owes the firm more than $120,000 in attorney's fees and expenses. The law firm is demanding a jury trial and unspecified damages.

According court documents, the firm represented IPI in two civil lawsuits filed by Pacific Rim Land Development LLC in the mechanic's lien action and defamation lawsuit filed by USA Fanter Corp. Ltd, and also represented IPI in filing a complaint against FSM Recycling Corp. relating to theft of construction materials at the IPI warehouses.

On Dec. 13, 2019, the law firm and IPI entered into a contract regarding the Pacific Rim lawsuit against the casino investor.

Last Feb. 11, the firm and IPI entered into another contract for the law firm to provide legal services to IPI in the USA Fanter mechanic's lien.

Back in April 8, 2020, the law firm and IPI agreed that the law firm would represent IPI in the defamation action on the same terms as the mechanic's lien matter, but with a separate initial retainer.

Back in March 23, the law firm and IPI entered into another contract regarding the IPI civil action against FSM Recycling Corp. and certain individuals. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

CONGRESSMAN
GREGORIO KILILI
CAMACHO SABLAN
Serving the People of the Northern Mariana Islands
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR
MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY
CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS
Opportunities to learn and serve at the U.S. Service Academy include a fully funded education and a commission as a military officer upon graduation.
Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan may nominate constituents to the
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
U.S. Air Force Academy
U.S. Military Academy
U.S. Naval Academy
Eligibility: U.S. citizen, unmarried with no dependents, age 17-23, high school senior or graduate, strong academic record, and ability to pass a physical fitness test.
To access the nomination application or for more information, visit sablan.house.gov or call 670-323-2647/8 on Saipan, 433-2647 on Tinian, or 532-2647 on Rota.
This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.

NMC awarded $1.5M grant to advance STEM education

Northern Marianas College announced yesterday that it has been awarded a $1.5-million grant to advance science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and career exploration through its Project PROA program. The grant, which will be awarded over the next five years, will also provide financial literacy education to students and their families. Project PROA is a federally-funded program under the U.S. Department of Education's Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions Program.

This is the second time that NMC is receiving this five-year grant. The original five-year grant was awarded back in 2015 and helped to provide important student services and assistance.

"We are thankful for this notification from the U.S. Department of Education and look forward to expanding the services that our students can access to succeed in the priority areas identified by the grant," NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico said.

Project PROA program provides free academic tutoring and college mentoring to high school and college students, and holds academic and cultural activities and workshops; the program also holds an annual summer bridge program which helps high school students successfully transition to college. Additionally, the program purchased Achieve 3000 to support the college's students in developmental English courses.

"Project PROA's mentoring and tutoring has really helped me to succeed in all my college classes. The services they provided allowed me to smoothly navigate my way through my academic courses as well as open up new experiences for me as a participant and later on as a Project PROA tutor," said Nathan Angui, NMC Class of 2019 and former Project PROA tutor.

The program is staffed by Hedwig Hofschneider, director; Malyssa Castro, program coordinator; Kyanna Tenorio, administrative assistant; Maria Aguon, Tinian site coordinator; Diana Hocog, acting Rota site coordinator; and 17 student tutors and mentors.

The primary population served by the program are Chamorro and Carolinian students; however, as a federally-funded program, Project PROA assists all enrolled students. The program serves students on Saipan, Tinian and Rota and is housed at NMC.

NMC was first granted an award to begin Project PROA in 2015, but due to Typhoon Soudelor, the program did not begin until August 2016.

The Project PROA team, with support from NMC grants manager William Torres, received assistance from NMC's Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Financial Aid Office, Office of Institutional Advancement, and other departments on campus to help prepare the grant application for submission. Additionally, PSS's Office of Curriculum and Instruction provided data support.

NMC also received letters of support from the Office of the CNMI Governor, Office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, the offices of the CNMI Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives, the education committee chairmen of the CNMI House of Representatives and Senate (Rep. Roman Benavente and Sen. Justo Quitugua), the PSS Commissioner of Education, the Public School System, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the Carolinian Affairs Office, the Indigenous Affairs Office, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, 500 Sails, and the Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance. ***(NMC)***

Torres renews 2 emergency executive orders

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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres renewed last Sunday Executive Order 2020-04, declaring a State of Public Health Emergency and State of Significant Emergency for the entire CNM due to imminent threat posed by COVID-19.

Torres also renewed Executive Order 2020-07, which ordered the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office, through the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, and in partnership with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., to undertake necessary COVID-19 containment measures by means of the development of emergency directives to protect the health and safety of the public.

Executive Order 2020-07 was first issued last April 16.

Both executive orders 2020-04 and 07 will remain in effect for 30 days.

Torres first issued Executive Order 2020-04 last March 16, declaring a State of Public Health Emergency and a continued Declaration of a State of Significant Emergency, establishing response, quarantine, and preventive measures concerning COVID-19.

A total of 61 individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19 in the CNMI. Of those individuals, two have died.

Tan Marikita's Café reopens

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

After several months of renovation work that started before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Tan Marikita's Café of Herman's Modern Bakery along Airport Road reopened its doors yesterday to welcome old and new patrons to a bigger and bright café.

The grand reopening of the café, which is adjoined to the bakery's to-go counter, was attended by many elected officials, community members, and loyal customers, who welcomed the café's spacious look and airy interiors and the aroma of brewedg coffee and freshly baked bread and pastries.

"Our café has definitely gotten bigger so we can accommodate more people enjoy while they eat their breakfast and lunch," said HMB operations assistant production manager Daryl Deleon Guerrero. "It's a great change because you can enjoy your meal without someone lean over them to get a sweet bread or [loaf of bread from] the shelves."

"We look at this as a great achievement and it is something that we are very proud…because this is our grandpa's and grandma's legacy. I really wish they were here to see this but I know they are looking down at us from the heavens. …I really do hope that the people of the CNMI do come by and enjoy their cup of coffee with a package of sweet bread," Deleon Guerrero added.

When you walk in, you will see racks of bread and cookies on the left side and the choices of cakes, donuts, and other pastries on the right. Walk through those and you will enter the adjacent café, which can accommodate 40 people right now but can seat more when the limited seating capacity rule is lifted.

"We adhere to Occupational Safety and Health Administration and COVID-19 Task Force standards for the safety of our employees and customers. All tables and chairs are 6 feet apart to promote social distancing," Deleon Guerrero said "As for the community's favorites, they are available as we are keeping the traditional classic dishes that our grandparents passed on to us, like Pan Tun Herman Pan's Amotsa that has two soft-boiled or poached eggs, bacon, sweet bread with butter and jelly, Tan Marikita's Amotsa that has fried rice, chorizo espaniot, 2 eggs cooked in any style, sweet bread with butter and jelly and the famous Chamorro breakfast that has steamed or fried rice (Tan Marikita's style) Portugese sausage or spam, 2 eggs any style, sweet bread with butter and jelly," De Leon added.

Saipan Mayor David Apatang, who is a regular at Tan Marikita Café, is happy to see the café up and running again. "Finally after Super Typhoon Yutu and even amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the café is open again, ready to welcome and serve the community. I come here most of the time for breakfast because I really enjoy the sweet bread and scrambled eggs. My family has been patronizing Herman's for the longest time, whether it's bread, apple pie, or turkey during Thanksgiving," he said

Another early bird at the opening was Hyatt's executive sous chef Zen Tomokane. "In times like these, it is nice see people in the business community still trying their best to expand, stay open and bring back to the community and Herman's Modern Bakery is one of the staples here in the CNMI," he said. "I'm here to buy some bread and make sure we can support all local businesses in the community."

HMB general manager Anne G. Hayes said that the renovation of the café faced many challenges. "With the pandemic, many plans got pushed back. …There were a lot of restless nights and stress but now we are here celebrating our grand opening…The good thing about Herman's is that we are in the food industry and, even with the pandemic, people will still be buying food," she said.

"As for employees…I am happy that we did not relieve anybody. There was a short-term furlough but we called them back and gave them an option. … All our CW-1 workers are on board and we did not send anybody home. We have been blessed," she added.

Herman's Modern Bakery was founded in 1944 by Herman R. Guerrero and his wife, Maria C. Tenorio-Guerrero.

Tan Marikita's Café is open Monday to Saturday from 6am to 6pm and on Sundays from 6am to 3pm. They start serving lunch plates at 10:30am. For more information, call (670) 234-1726 or look them up on Facebook: Herman's Modern Bakery.

The new Tan Marikita's Cafe is spacious and still has that warmth that the community has loved for almost 76 years.

BEA CABRERA

CUC

From Page 1

san last Sept. 10 to hammer out the agreement.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña confirmed that the intent of the payment agreement is to ensure that the Commonwealth Health Center won't be disconnected for six hours daily.

Under the new agreement, the central government will help CHCC pay CUC $219,000 before the 8th of each month. The central government will fork out $150,000; CHCC will foot the remaining $69,000.

"While it is unusual for the sole hospital to be subjected to disconnection and while the agreement does not remove the possibility of disconnections completely, the negotiations concluded have led to assurances of avoiding this unfortunate act, especially during a pandemic," CHCC stated in a later statement.

Under the terms of the agreement, CUC reduced CHCC's monthly obligation from $250,000 a month to $219,000 a month, which will be going toward CHCC's current monthly bills. Additionally, the payment in September will cover the monthly bill for August.

Furthermore, the $219,000 payment will hold unless CHCC's power consumption increases or there is a rate increase in the fuel adjustment clause. Should there be a decrease in FAC, CHCC will be able to pay less than $69,000, but no less than $60,000.

According to the agreement that was signed by Torres, Muña, CUC executive director Gary Camacho, Manibusan, and Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, all parties agreed to "faithfully participate" in future negotiations that will be held within a reasonable time from the moment they signed the agreement and will discuss arrear amount and a possible amendment to the arrear amount.

Torres also backed the agreement, assuring that more talks about the money that's owed, including the late fees and penalties, will be up for negotiation.

CUC cut power to the hospital last Sept. 8, 2020, for six hours a day. CHCC, which runs the hospital, was informed that it would be disconnected again last Sept. 9 but this was cancelled right before noon. However, CHCC did cancel some surgeries prior to the cancellation of the disconnection.

$19M

From Page 1

great thing. "That means that they're cleared and ready to go. And on Monday morning, when we send out the actual direct deposit, they should be receiving that money in their account the next day or two. And that's a large batch," he said.

With respect to the child tax, Atalig said they released the first batch in the amount of $7 million in the middle of last week and they've been working on the second batch in the last couple of weeks.

Atalig said they're expecting a response from Internal Revenue Service as they requested an additional $2.3 million. "Once we receive that, we'll be sending out those child tax refunds or rebates," he said.

As for the regular tax refunds, Atalig said they are scheduled to release the tax refunds once several funding sources come in, which they project to happen by the end of the month.

US

From Page 1

the United States of most individuals, who were from mainland China and some other countries. Those restriction exempted U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents.

The term "United States" also includes the CNMI, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

Aside from those coming from mainland China, Wolf also terminated the arrival restrictions on flights carrying persons who had recently traveled from Iran, the countries of the Schengen Area, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Brazil.

For China, the arrival restrictions remain in place for those coming from Hong Kong and Macau.

For the United Kingdom, excluded from termination of arrival restrictions are its overseas territories outside of Europe.

In its update on the restrictions, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection said all travelers abroad and onboard aircrafts that are bound for the U.S. that are already airborne at 12:01am Eastern Daylight Time on Sept. 14 are no longer subject to the funneling airport requirements.

CBP said travelers may arrive directly or indirectly from a COVID-19 country and may require additional public health screening.

CBP said the notice does not affect the health screening procedures and quarantine orders implemented by Centers for Disease Control/Public Health authorities.

Last Jan. 31, President Donald J. Trump signed a presidential proclamation called "Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus and Other Appropriate Measures to Address this Risk."

The proclamation temporarily suspended such entry into the U.S. from listed countries.

TRAVELER

From Page 1

Of the total 61 confirmed cases, 35 cases were identified through the port-of-entry screening, 10 cases were identified as a community contact, and 16 cases were identified as a known contact.

Additionally, of the 35 confirmed cases identified through travel screening, 24 cases originated from the U.S. mainland, three are from a foreign country, and seven are from U.S. territories.

In a statement that Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero issued related to the territory's latest COVID-19 fatality, a 10-year-old boy, she said she can't imagine the unfathomable grief the boy's family must be going through.

She stated that the more the island loses to COVID-19, the more they get used to losing. However, said the loss of a young child is different. "Children are innocent and have a light that brightens the darkness in the world, and if a child wasn't given the chance to share it, they are truly lost," she said. "As a mother and grandmother, losing a child this way seem especially senseless."

The 10-year-old boy's death makes him the island's youngest COVID-19-related death.

Leon Guerrero reminded the community that the COVID-19 virus doesn't discriminate, won't get lazy or complacent, and it will take what it can, which is why everyone needs to protect each other.

She said the 26 people who have died are not just numbers but people who leave behind family and friends. "They are our people," she added.

Leon Guerrero stated that the people who lost their lives still had a lot of living to do, and after seven months of battling COVID-19, "it's clear that it's the fight of our lifetime."

Leon Guerrero urged residents to stay home, practice social distancing, and wear a mask because, even if these are simple actions, they are still powerful enough to save people's lives.

Torres to Mangloña: Use remaining term to fund CHCC, CUC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has urged Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) to use his remaining term in office to advocate for giving more funding to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

When asked for comments during his radio briefing last Friday about Manglona's statements on CUC disconnecting CHCC's power, Torres said the senator doesn't know the inside of what has been going on with both CHCC and CUC.

"Since he is a senator for over 30 years, I'd like to also ask him: What can he do? And what should he be doing to safeguard during [the] budget [process]?" the governor said.

If Manglona is going to try to pinpoint and do the blame game, Torres said he wishes the senator would have done more appropriation as well in the last 30 years.

Torres said he believes that this was the first time that both CHCC and CUC boards sat down to address their arrears.

Last Sept. 9, Manglona wrote Torres to say that having the hospital running on emergency generator power for six hours daily after CUC disconnected its power supply to CHCC for non-payment of bills is dangerous as hospital patients are potentially at risk.

Manglona said that CHCC's emergency generator operation's capability and emergency fuel supply are being significantly compromised. "It is very alarming that during this unprecedented crisis, the first victim from our government financial belt-tightening is our hospital," he said.

Manglona asked Torres to immediately address this financial fiasco with CHCC and CUC.

Manglona noted that CUC did the disconnection last Sept. 8, four days after Torres assured the public that there will be no reduction in power supply to CHCC.

SPOTLIGHT

SSHS graduate Iris lee pursues medical path

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Southern High School alumnae Iris Lee is curious, hungry for understanding, and with a heart to help others—factors that are fueling this 18-year old freshman's passion to pursue a career in medicine at Emory University, while continuing to understand the things around her so that she will be able to contribute more and eventually improve the health of many.

"Since I am planning to major in Biology on the pre-medical track, I'm currently enrolled in biology and chemistry laboratory classes, which are medical school prerequisites. Although I am still on Saipan, our online classes started in mid- August," Lee said.

"For my freshmen seminar, I decided to take the one about natural disasters. My experience with super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu was a great influence as I wanted to explore not only typhoons but also the different natural disasters that are taking away too many lives these days," Lee added.

Lee is not new to the field of academic excellence. Aside from getting accepted into Emory University, which requires a 3.2 GPA, she already achieved many achievements at a young age that includes the Governor's Leadership Award, Japanese Culture & Language Top Senior, Mathematics Senior 1st Overall, English Language Arts Senior 1st Overall, Service Learning Award, Academic Excellence Award, STEM Fair High School Research Category 1st Place.

In order to achieve these accomplishments, Lee gives credit to her counselor, Hazel Tudela, who worked with her throughout her high school years. "She always helped and gave me the best advice for opportunities that I can maximize," Lee said.

She also gives thanks to her teachers at Saipan Southern High School whom she describes as always supportive and available every time she had concerns—Paul Miura, Dr. Dora Miura, Karen Camacho, Aniciete Guiao, Arisa Sakai Sensei, Donovan Tudela, and many more teachers, along with SSHS principal Vince Dela Cruz. "They helped me expand my vision in many ways…and I will never forget how much they mean in my life. …They gave me opportunities to challenge myself…which led to great results. …I tried to take all the classes that I was interested in and put in all my effort," she said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Southern High School graduate and Emory University freshman Iris Lee.

Lee is a full scholar at Emory University and she said she did not find it difficult to choose this school. "The biggest attractions that drew me to Emory University are that they highlight diversity, equity and inclusion. ...Furthermore, the student-to-faculty ratio was one of the major reasons and this is similar with my experience in Saipan Southern High School where I had the chance to get close to so many teachers and I loved how the teachers would remember the students' names. …I hope to build a friendly relationship with the professors and advisors at Emory as well," she said.

After college, Lee plans to go to medical school and become a physician. "I am not sure about what specialty yet, but one thing that I really want to do and has been my goal ever since is to help others. I want to be a doctor and volunteer in different places of the world to help those in need, especially on Saipan where medical expenses can be expensive for some people to afford. I hope to come back to the island and volunteer for the community," she added.

Her greatest inspiration is her family, saying she wants to make them proud and happy. "My parents have always supported me and…they would tell me that salary is not what determines my success but how happy I am with what I am doing," she said.

$338M released to Guam, USVI in rum and Section 30 tax payments

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has released $338,059,936 to Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The payment includes $65.1 million to Guam for federal income tax advance payments under Section 30 of the Organic Act of Guam for fiscal year 2021 and $272.95 million to the USVI in rum tax cover-over payments for estimated fiscal year 2021 rum tax collections in the territory.

"The Office of Insular Affairs works closely with the Internal Revenue Service to ensure quick and smooth transfer of these taxes back to the USVI and Guam once available," said U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary Douglas W. Domenech. "[Interior] Secretary [David] Bernhardt and I appreciate that these funds will be critical to Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands as they work to manage health and economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic in the territories."

Under the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, any excise tax collected on USVI manufactured rum imported into the U.S. mainland is transferred to or "covered-over" to the USVI. The USVI government submits an advance estimate of rum excise taxes to the Department of the Interior's OIA on an annual basis so that a payment can be made in September of each fiscal year. Any adjustments necessary are calculated and paid later based upon amounts advanced from rum excise taxes derived from the USVI and actual receipts collected by the federal government.

Under Guam's Organic Act, federal income taxes derived from active members of the U.S. Armed Forces and pensions paid to retired civilian and military employees of the United States who reside on Guam are annually "covered-over" to the Guam Treasury to support the operations, activities, and programs of the local government.

Through changes made under the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017, some of these funds are set aside for the Guam World War II Claims Fund at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. In March 2020, Bernhardt applauded President Donald Trump when he signed H.R. 1365, which made technical corrections to the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act. This legislation, passed by the House and Senate, authorized the Treasury to issue payments to survivors of Guam's occupation by Imperial Japanese Forces during World War II.

All payments are certified by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. ***(PR)***

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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www.dcrm.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of September 15, 2020

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Office of Representative Roman Benavente, 21st House of Representatives of the CNMI	09/04/2020 SSm-2020-X-077	Construction of One Beach Pala-Pala Structure	Laolao Beach Area, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
2. Office of Representative Roman Benavente, 21st House of Representatives of the CNMI	09/04/2020 SSm-2020-X-078	Construction of Three Beach Pala-Pala Structures	Obyan Beach Area, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
3. Office of Representative Roman Benavente, 21st House of Representatives of the CNMI	09/04/2020 SSm-2020-X-079	Construction of Two Beach Pala-Pala Structures	San Antonio Beach Area, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

OIA praises study on possible inclusion of Rota in NPS system

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior applauds the recent National Park Service announcement of preliminary results of a study that evaluates the prehistoric and historic resources as well as limestone forests on the island of Rota for possible designation as part of the National Park System.

The NPS announced on Au. 26 that it will conduct a series of virtual public meetings to share the study's preliminary findings and to engage stakeholders and the public in discussions about several preliminary alternative concepts for the future.

"We applaud the National Park Service from the regional San Francisco office, assisted by Superintendent Barbara Alberti and her staff, in these efforts. We also applaud Rota Mayor [Efraim] Atalig and his team, including CNMI leaders and all stakeholders, for their continued support and ongoing efforts to ascertain whether these important historical, cultural, and natural resources on Rota will be deemed suitable for inclusion in the National Park System," said Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech. "We encourage the public and especially the people of the CNMI to engage fully in these proceedings with the National Park Service."

Margaret Everson, acting director of the National Park Service, said that NPS is pleased to share the preliminary findings and hear from the public their thoughts for how these special resources may be managed in the future. "Establishing a unit of the National Park System [on] Rota would require the support of the [CNMI] and Rota municipal governments and action by the U.S. Congress," she said.

Following a visit to Guam in December 2019 when Domenech launched a workshop on World Heritage Opportunities Workshop for the insular areas, he then flew to the CNMI where he met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Atalig. While on Rota, Domenech visited many of the important sites that are included in the current study, including the archeological site that houses the largest latte stones found in the Mariana Islands and the limestone forest which has been identified in the NPS study as the most intact its kind across the entire United States and its territories.

Preliminary findings of the study, according to the National Park Service website, indicate that Rota is a special place with significant cultural and natural resources. The Chamorro archeological sites, the World War II Japanese defensive sites, and the ancient limestone forests have been deemed to be nationally significant and suitable for inclusion in the National Park System. The next steps are to engage with the community on several preliminary alternative concepts for the future. ***(PR)***

9/11 COMMEMORATION

In compliance with a proclamation issued by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the American flag at the Circle of Honor of the American Memorial Park, as with all CNMI and United States flags in the CNMI, is lowered to half-staff last Friday, Sept. 11, in honor of the individuals, first responders, and military service members who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001. NEIL FAMA

NAVFAC awards Japan-funded contract for projects in Marine Corps Base Guam

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific awarded a $36 million firm-fixed price contract Sept. 9 to Pacific Rim Constructors, Inc., a small business of Dededo, Guam, for the construction of utilities and site improvements phase II main and commercial gates at Marine Corps Base, Guam.

The contract supports the Defense Policy Review Initiative and is funded by the Government of Japan as part of the International Agreement between the United States and Japan.

"The contract award is a key milestone for the Officer in Charge of Construction Marine Corps Marianas and Camp Blaz as it will provide the main and commercial entrance for the installation and will be the first line of force protection," said OICC MCM commanding officer Capt. Steven Stasick. "It is exciting to see the progress being made on Guam's new Marine Corps Base."

The work to be performed includes, but is not limited to, construction of a main gate and a commercial/tactical vehicle gate to provide installation security for Marine Corps Base Guam and meet Anti-Terrorism Force Protection and unified facilities criteria requirements.

Main gate facilities include an entry canopy with guard booths and pedestals, a gate house, an overwatch enclosure, a utility building, a search area with a canopy, and a visitor control center building with a parking lot for visitor privately owned vehicles (POVs). Commercial gate facilities include a primary canopy with guard booths and pedestals, pull-off POV inspection area, gate house/search office, an overwatch tower, a utility building, and a parking area for security forces.

Work will be performed in Guam and is expected to be completed by March 2023. ***(USN)***

COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 ▪ Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 ▪ Facsimile: (670) 236-9702
Website: www.justice.gov.mp

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

SCANNING CLERK (CARES Act)

for
Centron Hustisia in Rota
Announcement # JVA20-013

GENERAL INFORMATION: This position is funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and is temporary, ending in December 30, 2020.

DUTIES: The position is under the direct supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee in this class performs a wide variety of administrative duties essential to create or enhance remote access and virtual judicial services for the purpose of mitigating the spread of COVID-19. The incumbent is responsible to perform the following duties and responsibilities:

- Review and compile all court documents for scanning;
- Scan all documents necessary to create or enhance remote access and virtual judicial services;
- Check quality of scanned documents;
- Inspect regularly quality and assuring smooth functioning of scanners;
- Compile scanned documents;
- Reconcile, confirm and/or audit physical document with digitized image of same;
- Report progress regarding scanning, including communicating concerns to technicians and maintaining coordination of movement of files;
- Computing charges and developing a list of billing, if any; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The CARES Act Scanning Clerk should have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must also satisfy one of the following: (1) Have an associate's degree from a nationally accredited college or university in liberal arts, public or business administration, business management, criminal justice, or other appropriate field and two years of experience in secretarial, human resource, legal or administrative support or related work; OR (2) four years in legal or administrative support or related field.

Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain professional records, and uphold office policies.

Must be able to work under pressure and work in a fast-paced environment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Salary is $20,000.00 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application form at Window #3 at the front of the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on austerity Friday and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted on or before September 25, 2020, 5:00 p.m. (Chamorro Standard Time) to:

NMI Judiciary
Human Resources
Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9818
Cell. (670) 783-8592
Fax. (670) 236-9702
hr.judiciary@NMIjudiciary.com

This job announcement will remain open until 5:00 p.m. (Chamorro Standard Time) September 25, 2020 and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.nmijudiciary.com

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
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Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 ▪ Facsimile: (670) 236-9702
Website: www.justice.gov.mp

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

SCANNING CLERK (CARES Act)

for
the Island of Saipan
Announcement # JVA20-014

GENERAL INFORMATION: This position is funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and is temporary, ending in December 30, 2020.

DUTIES: The position is under the direct supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee in this class performs a wide variety of administrative duties essential to create or enhance remote access and virtual judicial services for the purpose of mitigating the spread of COVID-19. The incumbent is responsible to perform the following duties and responsibilities:

- Review and compile all court documents for scanning;
- Scan all documents necessary to create or enhance remote access and virtual judicial services;
- Check quality of scanned documents;
- Inspect regularly quality and assuring smooth functioning of scanners;
- Compile scanned documents;
- Reconcile, confirm and/or audit physical document with digitized image of same;
- Report progress regarding scanning, including communicating concerns to technicians and maintaining coordination of movement of files;
- Computing charges and developing a list of billing, if any; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The CARES Act Scanning Clerk should have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must also satisfy one of the following: (1) Have an associate's degree from a nationally accredited college or university in liberal arts, public or business administration, business management, criminal justice, or other appropriate field and two years of experience in secretarial, human resource, legal or administrative support or related work; OR (2) four years in legal or administrative support or related field.

Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain professional records, and uphold office policies.

Must be able to work under pressure and work in a fast-paced environment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Salary is $20,000.00 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application form at Window #3 at the front of the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on austerity Friday and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted on or before September 25, 2020, 5:00 p.m. (Chamorro Standard Time) to:

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THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

FAA support to airports in US territories, FAS lauded

» Airport Improvement Program funds exceed $54 million for fiscal year 2020

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior applauds U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao and the Federal Aviation Administration for providing $54,859,950 in fiscal year 2020 funding under the Airport Improvement Program to bolster airport safety, security, and infrastructure at airports in the U.S. territories and the freely associated states.

The funding provided for the insular areas is included in announcements made by the Trump Administration that the FAA is awarding more than $1.2 billion in airport safety and infrastructure grants to airports in all 50 states, the territories and the freely associated states.

"Interior applauds FAA's support for the airports in the insular areas," said Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech. "The Trump Administration understands that safe and secure airport facilities are vital not only for the physical safety of passengers and security readiness, but also for facilitating economic development in our territories as well as in the freely associated states."

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine E. Chao made several announcements this year regarding regular and supplemental funding made available under the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program for fiscal year 2020 that amounts to $32,710,507 for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and $22,149,443 to the freely associated states, which are the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

This announcement regarding AIP funding is in addition to $85 million provided by the FAA in CARES Act funding and nearly $9 million provided by the Federal Transit Administration in 2020 to the insular areas.

For a map showing the airports that are supported by FAA's AIP funds, visit the FAA website at: https://www.faa.gov/airports/aip/2020_aip_grants/map/. For complete information on the AIP program and related funding announcements from the U.S. Department of Transportation in 2020, visit https://www.faa.gov/airports/aip/2020_aip_grants/. ***(PR)***

Public invited to OPD community planning meetings

The Office of Planning and Development, under the CNMI Office of the Governor, would like to invite all interested community members to join OPD's upcoming planning meetings. These meetings are a chance for OPD to update the public on the status of the CNMI's Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan and three planning task forces—the Built Environment Task Force, Natural Resources Task Force, and Socio-Economic/Disaster Risk Reduction Task Force—and for task force members and stakeholders to provide their feedback on plan components and supporting implementation efforts.

The planning meetings are taking place this week on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8am to 12pm via Zoom, and will also be livestreamed to the OPD Facebook page @ CNMIOPD670.

Although the presentations will end each day for a lunch break, the meetings will resume after lunch to allow for community questions and discussion. Questions can be submitted via Zoom or Facebook during the meetings, and comments are being requested through Octo. 1 to help update the working documents that will be discussed this week. See https://opd.gov.mp/news/announcements/your-feedback-requested-10-1/ to learn more about the CSDP and engagement opportunities.

Space is limited on Zoom, so if you have not yet RSVP'd, email planning@opd.gov.mp and we will add your name to the registration email list.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
1 NO POVERTY
2 ZERO HUNGER
3 GOOD HEALTH & WELLBEING
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY
8 DECENT WORK & ECONOMIC GROWTH
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
16 PEACE, JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTIONS
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
BUILT ENVIRONMENT
6 CLEAN WATER & SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE CLEAN ENERGY
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
NATURAL RESOURCES
13 CLIMATE ACTION
14 LIFE BELOW WATER
15 LIFE ON LAND
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Day 1: The CSDP and Built Environment Planning Task Force

- 8am – 8:45am – Built Environment Updates
- 8:45am – 9am – Smart, Safe Growth – Building Back Better
- 9am – 9:15am – Rebuilding with Resilience – CUC Power & Water
- 9:15am – 9:30am – Comprehensive Solid Waste Management
- 9:30am – 9:45am – Safe and Sustainable Highways and Roads
- 9:45am – 10am – Water Quality and Environmental Health
- 10am – 10:15am – Complete Streets for Safe Transport and Healthy Communities
- 10:15 am – 10:30am – CREST Resiliency Hubs, Marianas Mappers / RiskMAP Updates
- 10:30am – 11:30am Community Visioning follow-ups and next steps

Day 2: The CSDP and Socio-Economic/ Disaster Risk Reduction Planning Task Force

- 8am – 8:50am – Context, RR Summary, and Socio-Econ Updates
- 9am – 9:15am – Garapan Revitalization Updates
- 9:15am – 9:30am – Sustainability Tourism Plan
- 9:30am – 9:45am – NMHC CBDG-DR Disaster Action Plan
- 9:45am – 10am – Resiliency Office and BRIC
- 10am – 11:00 am CEDS – Community Visioning – CEDS, EDA Projects Updates – Survey and Next Steps
- 11am – 12pm – Community Visioning follow-ups and next steps

Day 3: The CSDP and Natural Resources Planning Task Force

Where We're Going – The Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan and Natural Resources Planning Task Force

- 8am – 9am Natural Resources Updates – CSDP and Natural Resources Planning
- 9am – 9:30am – Watershed Planning – Garapan, Laolao, Achugao, and Talakhaya
- 9:30am – 9:45am – Coral Restoration and Resiliency Planning
- 9:45am – 10am – DFW Planning updates
- 10am – 10:15am – Forestry Planning updates
- 10:15am – 10:30am – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Coastal Resilience Agency Update
- 10:30am – 10:45am – State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
- 10:45am – 11am – Next Steps - Resources Report Recommendations and Visioning (OPD)
- 11am – 12pm – Community Visioning follow-ups and next steps (survey link, open facilitated discussion)

These public planning meetings are a great opportunity to provide your input on how OPD can help to shape a better and more sustainable future for the CNMI. Learn more at opd.gov.mp/. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Eliceo D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

AMENDED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TINIAN OCEAN RESORT CONDOMINIUM PERMIT APPLICATION NO. TMS-2020-X-067

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the major siting project for the proposed Tinian Ocean Resort Condominium.

The Tinian Real Estate Development, LLC (TRED) is proposing to construct a mixed-used, prefabricated condominiums on 1.17 acres of privately leased properties situated on the corner of Wall Street and Park Row identified as Lot No. 031 T 01 in Carolinas, Tinian. The proposed development includes 6 buildings with 377 units and a mezzanine floor, 183 parking spaces with an additional 10 ADA compliance parking spaces.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Friday, October 02, 2020 at 2:00PM in San Jose, Tinian. The public hearing will be conducted at the Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria.**

Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, there will be limited seating capacity. Therefore, this public hearing will also be conducted via video conferencing through Google Meet (meeting code https://meet.google.com/fxh-uzax-wpm or join via telephone by dialing (US) +1 336-914-1170 PIN: 255 857 615#)

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, sent by fax to 664-8315, or emailed to permitting@dcrm.gov.mp. The project files are open and can be reviewed by scheduling an appointment with DCRM. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Tinian Ocean Resort Condominium projects.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Winter is coming—and with it a potential second wave

As any "Game of Thrones" fan can tell you, the phrase "winter is coming" is not just a House Stark motto but a frequently invoked warning that a serious, easily overlooked threat is destined to arrive as temperatures drop. In the case of the George R.R. Martin books and the TV show based on them, the danger was not just failing to prepare for cold weather but for the rise of the "White Walkers" or living ice creatures. That was pure fantasy, of course, but the possibility that cooler weather carries with it a serious health threat is fact.

Flu season will soon be upon us, but that's only half the picture. During the last pandemic of a COVID-19 level magnitude, the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic, the outbreak first developed in the spring, became less severe in the summer and then came back in a so-called "second wave" with a vengeance in the fall.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention still offers details of what happened 102 years ago in the U.S. on its website: The second wave starts modestly at Boston military bases and then spreads like wildfire with infections between September and November accounting for the majority of pandemic-related deaths in the United States. It was only in December that public health officials warn Americans of the danger of passing the flu through coughing, sneezing and "nasal discharges." But the warnings are either not enough or too late. A third wave develops in the winter and continues through the spring of 1919. In the end, an estimated 675,000 U.S. lives are lost, but worldwide the final number is closer to 50 million.

That century-old lesson may be lost on some but not on health experts. New soon-to-be-published research out of Johns Hopkins University suggests that one of the reasons this summer's COVID-19 pandemic was not worse is that the virus is averse to warmer temperatures. Essentially, hot, wet weather dampened the spread. The problem is that the reverse is true: Cooler weather is likely to facilitate transmission. This shouldn't come as a shock. It happens with far less lethal respiratory illnesses like the common cold. In recent days, experts have warned Americans not to get complacent even as positivity rates and the total number of new cases have fallen. Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, has been among them. Just recently he warned that Americans are going to need to "hunker down" through the fall and winter and that circumstances will worsen as states lift social distancing restrictions.

Let's face it. A lot of people are tired of this pandemic, tired of isolation and social distancing, tired of being tired—and one can hardly blame them. The start of school

See WINTER on Next Page

Who can save our Constitution? Only we, the People

By ELIZABETH WYDRA
InsideSources.com

Elizabeth Wydra is president of Constitutional Accountability Center, a public interest law firm and think tank dedicated to promoting the promise of the Constitution's text, history and values. She wrote this for InsideSources.com.

What is a constitution?

A constitution is made up of words and sentences, explaining how a government should and should not operate, and declaring which people—and what values—a government should protect.

A democratic constitution, however, means little on its own, no matter how broadly and fairly it's written. Words cannot enforce themselves. Words, under glass in a museum, cannot make someone do something they don't want to do, or prevent them from doing something they're determined to do.

No, what makes a constitution work in a democratic society are the people—people in the corridors of power and in the street, from presidents to the general public—who agree to follow and respect its text, history and values without being forced. For a constitution to last, that respect must flow from the generation of those who drafted it, through all the generations that follow, even through vigorous disagreements about what words should be in our national charter and what those already there mean. Every generation must agree to renew that founding commitment and, when necessary, reconstruct it—even fundamentally remake it.

No greater example of this constitutional patriotism exists than the tireless resistance of abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass, who refused to let his fellow Americans turn their eyes away from the colossal chasm between our professed founding ideals of freedom and the fact that the nation allowed the brutal enslavement of human beings. Knowing our Constitution, even with its flaws, could be wielded for emancipation, Douglass and subsequent movements of the people ended the nation's original sin of chattel slavery, and continued to fix founding mistakes, bringing more people under the Constitution's protection and expanded our democratic society.

We owe gratitude to those who ensured the full promises of liberty and equality were actually written into our national charter, and now we must breathe life into these words. We do this by investing them with meaning and power, striving to wring from them every drop of hypocrisy, and holding the faithless among us accountable to them. We do this by telling one another, every day—both as individuals and through our institutions—how our Constitution's words are supposed to settle disputes about who has power in our society, who in our society may get key resources and, ultimately, what course our nation will take into the future.

What happens, though, when enough people stop caring about the commitments promised by our Constitution? What happens when they become tired of its protections being denied to them; when they see the faithless among them in charge of government, going unpunished after routinely violating our Constitution's rules; when they see those who sought power by professing fealty to the Constitution's text and values, toss that fealty aside when commanded by a charismatic political leader?

What are we doing about the fact that the words of our Constitution guarantee equal protection of the law for all, speak of equal citizenship for all, yet police violence against Black people continues, unaccountable to justice? Have we stopped caring about enforcing our Constitution's manifold protections of the right to vote against discrimination based on race, sex, age or ability to pay any kind of tax? Or its powerful stand against religious tests, or its monument to the rule of law? Are the words of the framers in Philadelphia—and of the framers of critical amendments adopted after the Civil War, the progressive movement and the civil rights movement—gradually reverting to being merely words on parchment under glass at the National Archives?

From Kenosha, Wisconsin, and Minneapolis to Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.—and countless cities and towns in between—people in America are taking to the streets, taking to the ballot box and taking our leaders to task. They are demanding, in the final analysis, that our nation live up to promises made in our amended Constitution: Equality. Justice. The right to vote free from discrimination. Leaders accountable to the rule of law.

We have seen all too often of late that political leaders and institutions will fail us. But our Constitution doesn't begin with "We the Leaders." It begins with "We the People." We are the source of its strength and the wellspring of its meaning. Only we can do the hard work of giving it life, and of protecting it for the generations who follow us. I believe we will.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

US territories, not states, bear the scars of WWII

Editor's Note: *Originally published in* The Federalist *on Sept. 11, 2020.*

By DOUGLAS W. DOMENECH
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Douglas W. Domenech is Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs.

As we mark 75 years since the cessation of hostilities in the Pacific Theater of World War II, we should keep in mind that it was not the United States' 48 states then whose land and people sustained the scars of enemy occupation. That was borne by the U.S. territories, whose residents continue to play a pivotal role in our nation's life.

For 23 minutes on Sept. 2, 1945, the world was tuned in to a ceremony of the greatest importance coming from Tokyo Bay. That morning aboard the U.S.S. Missouri, U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur signed as supreme commander for the Allied Powers the documents accepting the unconditional surrender of the Japanese Empire, officially ending World War II.

Americans know well that the United States joined WWII as a direct result of the sneak attack on Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941. What is less remembered now is that Hawaii was a U.S. territory at the time and that all of the American lands in the Pacific seized by Japanese forces and occupied during 1941-1945 lay in U.S. territories, not the states.

While there were German and Japanese submarine attacks on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, it was four U.S. territories—Guam, the Philippines, Kiska and Attu in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, and Wake Atoll—which were the only American land to suffer enemy occupation. It was not until 1959 that Hawaii and Alaska became states. The Philippines became a territory of the United States in 1898 and achieved its independence on July 4, 1946. The U.S. territory of American Samoa was bombed in WWII but never occupied.

The now U.S. territory of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was administered by the Japanese before the start of WWII but was liberated by Americans in 1944 after battles on Saipan and Tinian. The Northern Mariana Islands then became part of the post-World War II United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific, and in 1976, the U.S. Congress approved a mutually negotiated Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America.

The United States military also engaged in fierce battles to liberate the Alaskan Aleutian Islands in 1942-1943, Guam in 1944, and the Philippines in 1944-1945 from enemy occupation. The United States infamously protected the territory of Midway from Japanese attack. This history seems better known today than the sacrifices made to defend the tiny U. S. territory of Wake Atoll, which lies in the Western Pacific about 2300 miles west of Honolulu.

In 1899, at the time the United States took possession of Wake Atoll, it had no indigenous population. Then, in 1934, Wake was placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Navy, and a powerful naval and air facility was established there in 1939. The atoll also provided Pan American Airways, other commercial carriers, and military aircraft with a stopover and refueling station between Honolulu and Guam en route to Asia.

It was while the Navy administered the atoll that Wake was attacked and valiantly defended against the Imperial Japanese Force's relentless assault, but eventually, it fell on Dec. 23, 1941, and was occupied until the end of the war in 1945.

By executive order in 1962, President John F. Kennedy made the Department of the Interior responsible for Wake Atoll's civil administration, and in 1972 the Department of the Air Force took over the atoll's civil administration.

Today, in the Pacific, Hawaii, and Alaska are our 49th and 50th states, and the people of Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands enjoy U.S. citizenship. Midway and Wake Atolls are inhabited but the following U.S. territories (or possessions) are not: the islands of Baker Island, Howland, and Jarvis; the atolls of Johnston and Palmyra; and finally, Kingman Reef.

Seventy-five years since the cessation of hostilities in the Pacific Theater of the Second World War, the U.S. territories and our allies in the Pacific remain a priority for the United States and for President Trump. Under his leadership, the United States has adopted an Indo-Pacific Strategy meant to maintain a strong U.S. presence in the region we fought hard to liberate from enemy domination.

WINTER

From Page 8

with many students going virtual has been the latest, unwelcome milestone. And yet the narrative has been: This will be over soon. Schools will soon be moving to in-person classes or at least a hybrid model, while businesses and even movie theaters fully reopen.

Meanwhile, much of the public's attention has been on the latest revelation of how President Donald Trump privately revealed to Bob Woodward that he knew the harm on the horizon posed by the coronavirus but chose to lie about it to the rest of us. Yet even this hoopla over a conversation (that the author wisely recorded) is beside the point. The immediate danger today is not a lack of accounting over President Trump's failures of seven months ago or even in all the president's more recent politically self-serving promises about a vaccine around the corner, but in ignoring how the now-undeniable threat of COVID-19 will worsen in cool weather.

The solution is not sexy. It's not cutting-edge science. It's not even new as it echoes some of the very same advice ultimately given to Americans a century ago: Wear a mask, keep a safe distance, wash your hands frequently. Do these things faithfully and the cold weather may not matter. Keep doing them and perhaps a second lockdown won't be necessary. Do not let your guard down, as Dr. Fauci might say, and lives will be saved. We can't know for certain what the winter of 2020-2021 will bring but experience, expertise and even popular fiction counsels that precautions are in order.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A unified Marianas

I have a dream that in my lifetime, Guam and the CNMI unite to become One Marianas. Our region has such a unique history. The indigenous people of the Mariana Islands were significantly impacted by colonialism and globalization, the effects of which are still prevalent in today's Marianas society.

There is absolutely no reason why the two governments cannot find a way to unify the region. It has been 75 years since the liberation of the entire Marianas.

Here are a few questions that frequently come up as I continue to make sense of the possibility of this endeavor.

How many generations of indigenous Chamorros and Refaluwasch have elapsed post-World War II?

How many within the past generations have served in government positions capable of affecting such an endeavor?

How many indigenous Chamorros and some Refaluwasch are content living a westernized lifestyle that the focus is more on, "What's in it for me?" instead of what is best for the community?

If Guam and the CNMI governments unite, will we be able to strengthen our position to seek proper representation in Congress?

This next question aims for the preservation of the entire indigenous Marianas culture. Maybe a topic for my next piece.

How many Chamorros, some Refaluwasch, realize that their language and culture are dying because they'd instead choose the convenience of speaking English to their children and grandchildren?

This endeavor is not simple. However, it is possible.

Maybe one day.

One unified Mariana Islands.

Edwin Diaz
Kagman III, Saipan

Ignoring election-year slander

I want to thank Mr. Don Farrell for writing his letter to the editor, in which he urged CNMI voters to ignore election-year slander.

I have seen many elections in the CNMI. My family on both my mother's and father's sides had members who ran and were elected to top political posts, including the CNMI's first governor, Dr. Carlos S. Camacho, and the late senator Olympio T. Borja, who served in the former Congress of Micronesia and was a signatory to the Covenant, which established the CNMI. My brother, Jesse C. Borja, was the lieutenant governor under the late governor Froilan C. Tenorio.

In election years, I saw how some persons changed from their regular pleasant, positive selves to become very nasty and very negative. When the election is over, those persons returned to their regular positive selves again.

As Mr. Farrell wrote, we should judge Rep. Edwin Propst on his accomplishments, not on alleged sexual improprieties many years ago. Incidentally, I have taught at Marianas High School and at Northern Marianas College for almost 30 years, and I have never heard of any rumors regarding Rep. Propst's character. Instead, I have heard how Rep. Propst, his wife Daisy, and their children bring supper and comfort each evening to his sick mother.

Lupe Camacho Borja Robinson
Sadog Tasi, Saipan

Handcuffing families to the CNMI

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. announced Saturday a hike in PRC testing costs to outbound travelers from $50 to $300. As flights return, this decision will handcuff families to the island. Many have been without work for months and will struggle to pay for a ticket, no less an additional $300 per family member if they need to travel to the Philippines, Korea, China, or Japan where PRC tests are required for entry. So a family of four traveling to Manila will have to come up with an additional $1,200. Is that fair? What if someone needs surgery in Manila or somewhere else that provides a service that can't be found in the CNMI? Would CNMI charge a person with an urgent need $300 if they needed to travel to the Philippines for medical care?

Tourists will *not* return. Will tourists from China, Korea, Japan, and the Philippines return to Saipan knowing they'll pay $300 per family member to return back home? If I'm vacation planning, $50 for each family member sounds much better than $300. CHCC can all but guarantee no tourist will return to the CNMI. Great job!

Who paid for the test? Did CHCC pay for all the PRC kits sent to the CNMI? I thought they were being reimbursed or have already been reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Who pays for health care worker and laboratory costs associated with pandemic testing? I thought FEMA was reimbursing CHCC for these costs. So if CHCC is being reimbursed by FEMA for these costs, should CHCC profit for services that they have already been paid for or will be reimbursed for? Seems like if the federal government is already covering these costs, charging someone else for them would be illegal. Should CHCC be paying FEMA back for the cost of kits being used on nonresidents or tourists? I guess the $50 PRC cost wasn't enough to cover the utility bill.

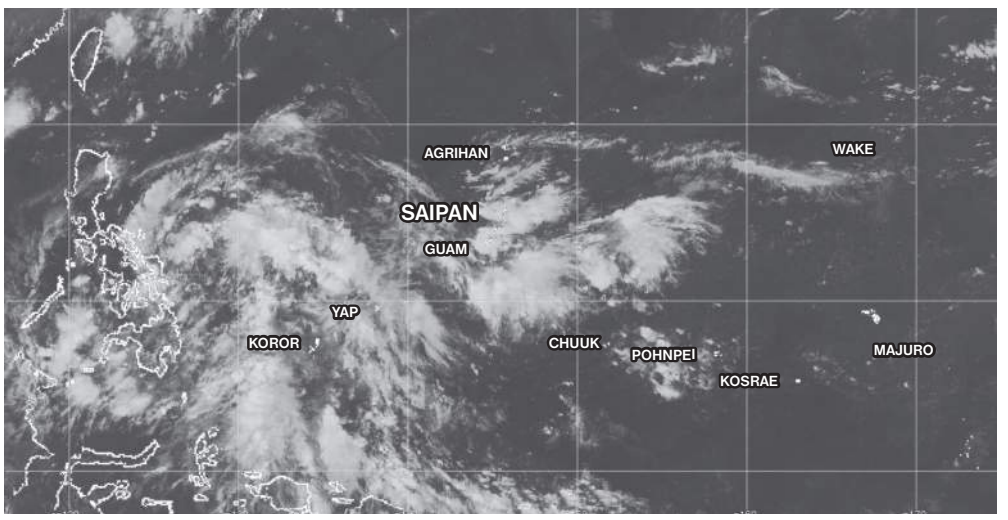
Mica F. Cochran
Capital Hill, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms. Scattered showers in the afternoon over Guam.	Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms. Scattered showers in the afternoon over Guam.
89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 77°	89° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:28 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Showers can be seen on radar moving into the region. Looking at the satellite, these showers are forming from a surface trough. Additionally, an upper-level trough is located near 16N148E and could provide a boost for convection that forms later today. Combined seas have continued to fall with buoys showing combined seas of 2 to

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:18 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:17 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:16 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:15 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:33 AM	4:44 PM	-
Wednesday	4:34 AM	5:33 PM	-
Thursday	5:35 AM	6:20 PM	-
Friday	6:36 AM	7:06 PM	-
Saturday	7:36 AM	7:52 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	66° / 54°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	81° / 64°
Hong Kong	Showers	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Showers	63° / 45°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	73° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Rain	61° / 43°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 68°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	63° / 46°
Busan	Windy	77° / 70°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	77° / 64°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	84° / 64°
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 57°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	81° / 61°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	77° / 64°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	79° / 65°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:52 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.82
12:00 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.09
6:58 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.97
-	-	-

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

GUM-MNL

UA183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	7:30am	10:50pm	5 via Guam

Friday GUM-MNL will need THU overnight in GUM, so did not include in below.

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

ARRIVALS

MNL-GUM

UA184	10:45pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

Monday MNL-GUM will need TUE-WED overnight in GUM, so did not include in below.

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kinpachi Restaurant owner Misako Kamata, right, poses with her father Yoshio and mother Keiko in front of the then-newly established Kinpachi Restaurant in Garapan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kinpachi Restaurant owner Misako Kamata and her mother Keiko have carried on the family business today.

Kinpachi
celebrates turning 40 with special menu

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The islands' oldest Japanese restaurant is having its ruby anniversary today when it turns 40. To celebrate, Kinpachi Restaurant will have a special menu to share with its loyal customers.

The $40 special menu is composed of shrimp tempura, tuna sushi, and shrimp sushi. All three items are the Garapan restaurant's certified bestsellers and what better way to commemorate four decades of diligently serving the island community by offering these local favorites, according to owner Misako Kamata.

"Our 40 years in the business is credited to our customers. We really appreciate the business and relationship they gave us. They are our extended family who support and help our business grow," she said.

Kamata also fondly shared that customers that love the authentic Japanese food they've been serving since the '80s and '90s, when her father first established Kinpachi Restaurant, are now grandfathers and grandmothers themselves and have introduced the iconic Garapan restaurant to the next generation—their own children and grandchildren.

"We grew up together and we know each other's family. We are grateful for them being part of our 40 years. In spite of the present situation, we thank them for making this year special for us and we hope to continue serving them in the coming years," she said.

The current crisis Kamata is alluding to is, of course, the COVID-19 pandemic, which is not only affecting the CNMI but the entire world.

"We actually never expected that our restaurant will reach its 40th year, especially this challenging year. We cannot really celebrate because of the situation but still we want to recognize our 40 years of service to the community," Kamata said.

Aside from the $40 special menu, Kinpachi Restaurant is also holding a 40-year anniversary raffle today where they will draw 40 giveaways. The prizes include $40 gift certificates, Japanese special sake, and other gifts from Japan. Raffle winners don't need to be present during the drawing as Kinpachi Restaurant will notify them via telephone.

"Because of the support of the local community [and] our customers' loyalty to us, we can still survive in spite of the lack of tourists. Hopefully we can still continue for another 40 years to come," said Kamata.

Kamata's father, Yoshio, established Kinpachi Restaurant on Sept. 15, 1980. After his death in 1987, Kamata was thrust into a leadership role in the company and has grown the business into one of the CNMI's most recognizable and iconic restaurants serving authentic Japanese cuisine. By her side all these years in successfully running the restaurant is her mother, Keiko.

Kinpachi Restaurant is located along Coral Tree Avenue on Saipan's premier tourist district of Garapan. It is open daily from 11am to 2pm for lunch and from 5pm to 9pm for dinner. Last order is at 8:30pm. To make reservations, advance orders, or for more information, call 234-6900.

Former UK leaders unite to slam Boris Johnson on Brexit plan

LONDON (AP)—Two former British prime ministers who played crucial roles in bringing peace to Northern Ireland joined forces Sunday to urge lawmakers to reject government plans to override the Brexit deal with the European Union, arguing that it imperils that peace and damages the U.K.'s reputation.

In an article in The Sunday Times, John Major and Tony Blair slammed the current British government for "shaming" the country with legislation that, in places, goes against the very deal it signed to allow for the U.K.'s smooth departure from the EU earlier this year.

Major, a Conservative prime minister from 1990 to 1997, and Blair, his Labour successor for a decade, said Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Internal Market Bill "questions the very integrity" of the U.K.

"This government's action is shaming itself and embarrassing our nation," they said.

The planned legislation, which will be debated by British lawmakers this week, has led to a furious outcry within the EU as it would diminish the bloc's previously agreed oversight of trade between mainland Britain and Northern Ireland if a U.K.-EU trade agreement isn't secured.

The British government has admitted that the legislation would break international law, but argues that it's an insurance policy for that potential 'no-deal' scenario. Johnson has said the legislation is needed to end EU threats to impose a "blockade" in the Irish Sea that the prime minister asserted could "carve up our country."

Britain's Justice Secretary Robert Buckland told the BBC on Sunday that the legislation was a "break the glass in emergency provision," if needed, and that he would resign if he believed the rule of law was broken in an "unacceptable" way.

"I don't believe we're going to get to that stage," he said.

EU leaders have furiously rejected Johnson's charge that the bloc is planning a major disruption to normal trade between mainland Britain and Northern Ireland.

Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney told the BBC that the "kind of inflammatory language" coming from the British government was "spin and not the truth."

Still, with the British government showing no sign of changing course, there are real concerns that the talks on a future trade deal between the U.K. and the EU could collapse within weeks. If that happens, tariffs and other impediments to trade will be imposed by both sides at the start of 2021.

The U.K. left the EU on Jan. 31, but it is in a transition period that effectively sees it benefit from the bloc's tariff-free trade until the end of the year while a future relationship is negotiated. Even before the latest standoff, discussions between the EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, and his U.K. counterpart, David Frost, had made very little progress.

TikTok picks Oracle over Microsoft in Trump-forced sales bid

(AP)—The owner of TikTok has chosen Oracle over Microsoft as its preferred suitor to buy the popular video-sharing app, according to a source familiar with the deal who was not authorized to speak publicly about it.

Microsoft announced Sunday that its bid to buy TikTok has been rejected, removing a leading suitor for the Chinese-owned app a week before President Donald Trump promises to follow through with a plan to ban it in the U.S.

The Trump administration has threatened to ban TikTok by Sept. 20 and ordered ByteDance to sell its U.S. business, claiming national-security risks due to its Chinese ownership. The government worries about user data being funneled to Chinese authorities. TikTok denies it is a national-security risk and is suing to stop the administration from the threatened ban.

TikTok declined to comment Sunday. Oracle didn't return a request for comment but has previously declined comment.

Microsoft said in a Sunday statement that TikTok's parent company, Bytedance, "let us know today they would not be selling TikTok's US operations to Microsoft."

Walmart had planned to partner with Microsoft on the deal. It's not clear if Walmart was still interested before Microsoft was notified of the rejection Sunday.

Microsoft said Sunday it was "confident our proposal would have been good for TikTok's users, while protecting national security interests." The company said it "would have made significant changes to ensure the service met the highest standards for security, privacy, online safety, and combating disinformation."

TikTok, which says it has 100 million U.S. users and about 700 million globally, is known for its fun, goofy videos of dancing, lip-syncing, pranks and jokes. It's recently become home to more political content such as the comedian Sarah Cooper, who drew a large audience by lip-syncing Trump's own often-disjointed statements from public appearances.

But the app has also raised concerns because of its Chinese owner, ByteDance. The White House has cracked down on a range of Chinese businesses, including telecom equipment makers Huawei and ZTE and messaging app WeChat, over worries that they would enable Chinese authorities to get U.S. user data. Republican and Democratic lawmakers have also raised concerns about censorship and children's privacy.

TikTok denies that it has shared user data with the Chinese government or that it would do so if asked. The company says it has not censored videos at the request of Chinese authorities and insists it is not a national-security threat.

TikTok has sued to stop the ban, but not the sale order. The sale situation has been complicated by several factors, including Trump's repeated demands that the U.S. government should get a "cut" of any deal, a stipulation and role for the president that experts say is unprecedented. In addition, the Chinese government in late August involved itself in the process by unveiling new regulations that restrict exports of technology that appear to include the system TikTok uses to choose which videos to spool up to its users. That means ByteDance would have to obtain a license from China to export any restricted technologies to a foreign company.

Nation

In defiance of Nevada governor, Trump holds indoor rally

LAS VEGAS (AP)—In open defiance of state regulations and his own administration's pandemic health guidelines, President Donald Trump hosted his first indoor rally since June, telling a packed, nearly mask-less Nevada crowd that the nation was "making the last turn" in defeating the virus.

Eager to project a sense of normalcy in imagery, Trump soaked up the raucous cheers inside a warehouse Sunday night. Relatively few in the crowd wore masks, with a clear exception: Those in the stands directly behind Trump, whose images would end up on TV, were mandated to wear face coverings.

Not since a rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, that was blamed for a surge of coronavirus infections has he gathered supporters indoors. There was no early mention from the president that the pandemic had killed nearly 200,000 Americans and was still claiming 1,000 lives a day.

"We are not shutting the country again. A shutdown would destroy the lives and dreams of millions Americans," said Trump, before using his inflammatory moniker for the coronavirus.

AP

President Donald Trump arrives to speak at a rally at Xtreme Manufacturing, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020, in Henderson, Nev.

"We will very easy defeat the China virus."

The rally in Tulsa, which was his first in three months after the coronavirus reached American shores, was a disaster for the campaign, a debacle that featured a sea of empty seats and a rise in COVID-19 cases, including on his own staff. One prominent Trump supporter at the rally, businessman and former presidential candidate Herman Cain, died of COVID-19 weeks later, though it was not clear if he contracted the virus in Tulsa.

Recognizing that many supporters were uncomfortable to gather in a large group indoors, where the virus spreads more easily, the Trump campaign shifted to holding smaller, outdoor rallies, usually at airplane hangers. But those rallies have grown in size in recent weeks, with little social distancing and few masks.

And on Sunday, they returned indoors, in part as a nod to the Las Vegas-area heat. Temperature checks were given to all upon entrance at the industrial site in Henderson and while masks were encouraged, few wore them.

Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak, a Democrat, has limited in-person gatherings indoors and outdoors to 50 people since May, a recommendation based on White House reopening guidelines. In a statement released just before the rally began, Sisolak said Trump was "taking reckless and selfish actions that are putting countless lives in danger here in Nevada."

"To put it bluntly: he didn't have the guts to make tough choices," Sisolak said of Trump's handling of the virus. "He left that to governors and the states. Now he's decided he doesn't have to respect our State's laws. As usual, he doesn't believe the rules apply to him."

The city of Henderson informed Xtreme Manufacturing on Sunday that the event as planned was in direct violation of the governor's COVID-19 emergency directives and that penalties would follow. The Trump campaign pushed back against the restrictions with the president saying he would support those in attendance "if the governor came after you."

"If you can join tens of thousands of people protesting in the streets, gamble in a casino, or burn down small businesses in riots, you can gather peacefully under the 1st Amendment to hear from the President of the United States," campaign communications director Tim Murtaugh said.

To this point, the campaign has not been played out as a choice election between Trump and his Democratic opponent, Joe Biden, but rather a referendum on the president's handling of the coronavirus. By wide margins, Americans have disapproved of Trump's leadership, as the United States has suffered more deaths than any other nation.

Therefore, the president's campaign believes it needs to change the subject and project the sense, despite evidence otherwise, that the pandemic was winding down and that a vaccine was on the horizon. Part of the plan: create images of normalcy, like the packed White House lawn for Trump's convention speech, though it was unclear if viewers were reassured or frightened.

Winds a worry as death toll reaches 33 from West Coast fires

BEAVERCREEK, Ore. (AP)—Nearly all the dozens of people reported missing after a devastating blaze in southern Oregon have been accounted for, authorities said over the weekend as crews battled wildfires that have killed at least 33 from California to Washington state.

The flames up and down the West Coast have destroyed neighborhoods, leaving nothing but charred rubble and burned-out cars, forced tens of thousands to flee and cast a shroud of smoke that has given Seattle, San Francisco and Portland, Oregon, some of the worst air quality in the world.

The smoke filled the air with an acrid metallic smell like pennies and spread to nearby states. While making it difficult to breathe, it helped firefighters by blocking the sun and turning the weather cooler as they tried to get a handle on the blazes, which were slowing in some places.

But warnings of low moisture and strong winds that could fan the flames added urgency to the battle. The so-called red flag warnings stretched from hard-hit southern Oregon to Northern California and extended through Monday evening.

Lexi Soulios, her husband and son were afraid they would have to evacuate for a second time because of the weather. They left their small southern Oregon town of Talent last week when they saw a "big, huge flow of dark smoke coming up," then went past roadblocks Friday to pick through the charred ruins of their home.

While they are staying farther south in Ashland, known for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, she said by text message that the forecast may mean they could be on the move again.

"So this isn't over yet but we just had the car checked so we feel prepared," Lexi Soulios wrote.

Authorities last week reported as many as 50 people could be missing after a wildfire in the Ashland area. But the Jackson County sheriff's office said late Saturday that four people had died in the blaze and that the number of missing was down to one.

At least 10 people have been killed in the past week throughout Oregon. Officials have said more people are missing from other fires, and the number of fatalities is likely to rise, though they have not said how high the toll could go as they search. In California, 22 people have died, and one in Washington state. Thousands of homes and other buildings have burned.

Barbara Rose Bettison, 25, left her farm among the trees and fields of Eagle Creek, outside Portland, when a sheriff's deputy knocked on her door Tuesday. They drove away on a road that became an ominous dividing line, with blue skies on one side and the other filled with black and brown smoke.

She took shelter at an Elks Lodge near Portland, where evacuees wrapped themselves in blankets and set up tents out back.

"It's terrifying. We've never had any form of natural disaster," she said.

Bettison, a UPS driver, was able to get out with her chickens, rabbits and cats. She hasn't been back, but neighbors said it is so smoky they can't see their hands in front of their faces.

"I'm hoping there has not been too much damage because it would break my heart," she said.

Farther south in the town of Talent, Dave Monroe came to his burned home, partially hoping he'd find his three cats.

Paulette rolls toward Bermuda; Sally threatens Gulf Coast

MIAMI (AP)—Residents of Bermuda were urged to prepare to protect life and property ahead of Hurricane Paulette, while Tropical Storm Sally threatened to intensify into a hurricane as it approached the U.S. Gulf Coast.

Paulette gained hurricane status late Saturday and was expected to bring storm surge, coastal flooding and high winds to Bermuda, according to a U.S. National Hurricane Center advisory.

Bermuda's government announced that L.F. Wade International Airport would close Sunday evening, and government buildings would be closed on Monday and Tuesday. It opened several shelters for evacuees.

Paulette had maximum sustained winds of 80 mph (130 kph) as the system moved along a curved course toward Bermuda, forecasters said. The biggest threats were strong winds, storm surge, up to 6 inches (15 centimeters) of rain and life-threatening surf and rip currents.

The storm was 240 miles (385 kilometers) southeast of the territory Sunday and was moving northwest at 14 mph (23 kph). It's the strongest in terms of winds of six disturbances the center was tracking in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico.

New Orleans and surrounding areas, meanwhile, were in the crosshairs of Sally, which was expected to become a hurricane on Monday and reach shore by early Tuesday - bringing hurricane conditions to a region stretching from from Morgan City, Louisiana, to Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Tropical storm conditions were expected in the region by Monday.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency Saturday, and officials in the New Orleans area issued a mandatory evacuation order for areas outside of levee protection.

The tropical storm had maximum sustained winds of 60 mph (95 kph) with higher gusts, forecasters said.

Storm surge from Sally was forecast to reach dangerous levels, due in part to the tide. Up to 11 feet (3.4 meters) of water was predicted from the mouth of the Mississippi River to Ocean Springs, Mississippi, including Lake Borgne.

A slow moving storm, Sally could produce rain totals up to 20 inches (51 centimeters) by the middle of the week, forecasters said. The system was moving west-northwest at 13 mph (20 kph) early Sunday. It was centered 135 miles (220 kilometers) west of St. Petersburg, Florida, and 280 miles (450 kilometers) east-southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River. Heavy rain was battering the southwest coast of Florida, the Hurricane Center said in its 11 a.m. advisory.

Once a tropical storm, Rene was forecast to become a remnant low Monday. Tropical Depression Twenty was expected to strengthen this week and become a tropical storm by Tuesday, forecasters said.

A low pressure system near the Cabo Verde Islands had a high chance of formation, while a disturbance in the Gulf had a low chance of formation. The Hurricane Center also reported a tropical depression in the central Atlantic that did not appear to threaten land.

Asia

In this photo provided by the Philippines' Bureau of Immigration Public Information Office, (PIO), U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Joseph Scott Pemberton, center, is escorted as he arrives at the airport before boarding a U.S. military plane in Manila, Philippines, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020. AP

PH deports US Marine in transgender killing

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A U.S. Marine convicted of killing a Filipino transgender woman was deported Sunday after a presidential pardon cut short his detention in a case that renewed outrage over a pact governing American military presence in the Philippines.

Lance Cpl. Joseph Scott Pemberton said in a farewell message that he was "extremely grateful" to President Rodrigo Duterte for pardoning him and expressed his "most sincere sympathy" to the family of Jennifer Laude, who he was convicted of killing in 2014 in a motel northwest of Manila after finding out that she was transgender.

In his nearly six years of confinement, Pemberton said he spent "much time contemplating the many errors" he committed the night Laude died. "He wishes he had the words to express the depth of his sorrow and regret," according to Pemberton's message, which was issued by his lawyer, Rowena Garcia-Flores.

Virginia Suarez, the Laude family's lawyer, said in a statement that she wishes Pemberton "peace of mind," and hopes that he has learned "the value of life and dignity regardless of gender and nationality."

Philippine immigration officers and American personnel escorted the 25-year-old Pemberton, who was in handcuffs and wearing a face mask, from his cell in the main military camp in Manila to the airport, where he boarded a military aircraft. He was put on an immigration blacklist and will be banned from returning to the country, said immigration spokesperson Dana Sandoval.

The U.S. Embassy said that "all legal proceedings in the case took place under Philippine jurisdiction and law," and that "Pemberton fulfilled his sentence as ordered by Philippine courts."

On Monday, Duterte granted an "absolute and unconditional pardon" to Pemberton in a move that caught many by surprise. The Philippine leader has long been a vocal critic of U.S. security policies while reaching out to China and Russia.

Duterte's pardon was condemned by left-wing and LGBTQ groups.

Debate has brewed over whether the Marine, whose detention was arranged under the treaty allies' Visiting Forces Agreement, or VFA, can be covered by a Philippine law that grants shorter jail terms to ordinary prisoners for good conduct.

The Regional Trial Court in Olongapo city, which handled Pemberton's case, ruled that the law covers Pemberton and ordered authorities on Sept. 1 to release him early for good conduct. But Laude's family and the Department of Justice separately appealed, blocking his early release from a maximum prison term of up to 10 years.

Duterte said he granted the pardon because Pemberton was not treated fairly after his early release, which he said the Marine may have deserved, was blocked.

S. Korea eases restrictions as virus cases drop

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea has reported its lowest daily virus tally in about a month as it began easing its tough social distancing rules in the greater Seoul area.

The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency said on Monday that the 109 new cases added in the past 24 hours took the country's total to 22,285 with 363 deaths.

It's the 12th consecutive day for South Korea's daily jump to stay in the 100s. The 109 additional cases are also the lowest daily tally since mid-August.

The government on Sunday relaxed its physical distancing guidelines in the Seoul metropolitan area, citing a downward trend in new infections and worries about public livelihoods.

Under new distancing rules that are formally effective from Monday for two-weeks, franchise cafes and bakeries are allowed to have customers drink and eat inside their shops while indoor gyms and after-school academics can reopen. A ban on dining at restaurants after 9 p.m. was also lifted.

These facilities are still required to impose some distancing rules like having visitors sit at least one seat apart from each other or wear masks.

New Zealand will keep its virus restrictions in place for at least another week as the country continues to battle a small outbreak that began in Auckland last month. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said Monday the country had taken a cautious approach to the virus from the beginning, which had helped save lives and allowed the economy to reopen in a sustained way. Ardern said New Zealand will continue its strategy of trying to eliminate the virus. Under the restrictions, everybody must wear masks on public transport and planes, and the sizes of most gatherings are limited to 10 in Auckland and 100 elsewhere. Health authorities announced one more case of the virus on Monday, bringing the number of active cases to 96.

World

Belarus protests enter 6th week

Still demand leader resign

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—More than 100,000 demonstrators calling for the authoritarian president of Belarus to resign marched through the capital of Minsk on Sunday as the daily protests that have gripped the nation entered their sixth week.

Many in the crowd, which the human rights group Viasna estimated as numbering more than 150,000, carried placards critical of Russia, reflecting concerns about President Alexander Lukashenko's planned meeting on Monday with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

It would be their first face-to-face contact since the unrest broke out in Belarus after the Aug. 9 presidential election that officials say gave Lukashenko a sixth term with 80% support. Protesters and some poll workers say the results were rigged.

Putin has said he stands ready to send Russian police into Belarus if the protests turn violent, stoking fears that Moscow could use the political dissent as an excuse to annex its neighbor like it did in Crimea in 2014. The countries have a union agreement envisaging close political, economic and military ties, although Lukashenko has repeatedly expressed concerns that Putin wants Russia to absorb Belarus entirely.

Some observers believe Lukashenko is going into the meeting in a weak position, and that Putin may capitalize on this to try to ease him out of power.

"Lukashenko has not been able to show Putin that he is in control of the situation and has put out the flame of protest, and this may push the Kremlin to seek an alternative scenario and candidate," independent political analyst Valery Karbalevich told The Associated Press.

Lukashenko has ruled the Eastern European nation of 9.5 million people with an iron fist since 1994, harshly repressing the opposition and the media. But the protesters' determination appears strong this time, despite daily detentions and reports of police beatings and abuse.

The Interior Ministry said more than 400 people were detained Sunday in Minsk. The ministry also reported that demonstrations took place in 16 other cities, including Brest, where police used water cannon against a crowd of several thousand.

"The source of power in Belarus is the people, not Lukashenko and the Kremlin," read placards carried by some marchers in Minsk. "Tell me who your friends are and I will say who you are," read another that bore photos of Lukashenko and Putin.

Police on Sunday set up rows of barbed wire and prisoner transport vehicles and deployed thousands of servicemen to block off the city center from demonstrators, but protesters came together outside the center and marched toward the presidential residence on the city's outskirts.

Lukashenko, a former collective farm director, has rejected any concessions or mediation attempts and has repeatedly accused Belarus' western neighbors of working to overthrow his government. In one show of aggressive defiance, he was seen striding with an automatic rifle across the grounds of his presidential residence.

Officials say east Libya govt resigns amid protests

CAIRO (AP)—An interim government in eastern Libya resigned on Sunday amid street protests that erupted across the divided country over dire living conditions, officials said.

Prime Minister Abdallah al-Thani submitted the resignation of his government to Aguila Saleh, speaker of the eastern-based House of Representatives, said the government's spokesman, Ezzel-Deen al-Falih.

Abdallah Abaihig, a spokesman for the parliament, confirmed the government's resignation, saying lawmakers would review it in their next meeting. No date set for the session.

The parliament on Friday accused the Central Bank and government in the capital of Tripoli of "plundering" the country and neglecting the east, in apparent efforts to deflect blame for the deterioration of public services.

Libya was plunged into chaos when a NATO-backed uprising in 2011 toppled longtime ruler Moammar Gadhafi, who was later killed. The country has since split between rival east- and west-based administrations, each backed by armed groups and foreign governments.

Both the parliament and al-Thani's government, which is not internationally recognized, are allied with Khalifa Hifter, commander of the self-styled Libyan Arab Armed Forces, which controls Libya's east and south.

Hundreds of young Libyans flooded the streets of Benghazi and other eastern cities in the past couple of days in a spontaneous outburst of anger over the area's crippling electricity shortages.

Protesters in eastern Libya set piles of tires a blaze and blocked traffic in several major roads. On Saturday, protesters attempted to storm a security headquarters in eastern town of Marj.

The U.N. Support Mission in Libya, or UNSMIL, said at least one civilian was reportedly killed and three others were wounded.

It called for "a thorough and immediate" investigation into "the reported excessive use of force against peaceful demonstrations" and the speedy release of a number of detained protesters.

The demonstrations mirror similar recent protests over power cuts and corruption in the capital Tripoli and other western cities in recent weeks. The protests have led to a power struggle within the U.N.-supported government.

The recent protests across Libya were "motivated by deep-seated frustrations about sustained poor living conditions, shortages of electricity and water, rampant corruption, misgovernance, and a lack of service provision throughout the country," the UNSMIL said.

The U.N. mission said the protests underscore "the urgent need to lift the oil blockade" and the return to a "full and inclusive" political process to end Libya's yearslong conflict.

Powerful tribes in eastern Libya loyal to Hifter closed oil export terminals and choked off major pipelines at the start of the year to pressure the Tripoli-based government, which is accused of using oil revenues to fund militias and mercenaries.

The U.S. Embassy in Libya said Hifter agreed to reopen oil fields and terminals no later than Saturday. By Sunday evening, it was not clear whether the blockade had been lifted. Hifter's spokesman did not answer phone calls and messages seeking comment.

Hifter's forces launched an offensive in April 2019 trying to capture Tripoli. But his campaign collapsed in June when the Tripoli-allied militias, with heavy Turkish support, gained the upper hand, driving his forces from the outskirts of the city and other western towns.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: 2020 Ford Super Duty proves that popularity doesn't always mean mediocrity

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

These days, a product's popularity is often a poor indicator of its quality. Consider McDonald's hamburgers, which don't taste remotely like beef, and Starbucks coffee, which always seems burned.

Yet popularity can just as often indicate a product's excellence, as is the case with Ford's F-Series Super Duty medium-duty pickup. It commands more than 62% vehicle market share in mining, 60% of the government fleet, 50% of emergency vehicles, 50% share in the petroleum industry, 47% of the construction industry, and 45% share in utility services according to IHS Markit U.S. registration data. And it does so with good reason.

How does Ford engender such loyalty?

It starts under the hood, with a standard 6.2-liter V-8 that generates 385 horsepower and 430 pound-feet of torque through a six-speed automatic transmission, although most Super Dutys have a new 10-speed automatic transmission with normal, tow/haul, eco, slippery, deep sand, and snow drive modes. Not enough for you? Sample the 7.3-liter V-8 generating 430 horsepower and 475 pound-feet of torque, or the new turbocharged, intercooled 6.7-liter V-8 diesel engine rated at 475 horsepower and 1,050 pound-feet of torque, which delivers a maximum payload of 7,850 pounds, conventional tow rating of 24,200 pounds, fifth wheel tow capacity of 32,500 pounds, and gooseneck tow capability of 37,000 pounds _ 1,500 pounds more than its closest competitor.

All come with rear- or all-wheel drive as a two-door Regular Cab, SuperCab extended cab, and Super Cab crew cab. Regular Cabs come with an 8-foot bed, while SuperCab and Crew Cabs come with a 6 3/4-foot bed or an 8-foot bed. Offered in ascending XL, XLT, Lariat, King Ranch, Platinum, Limited trim levels, each has a distinct persona. The XL is a basic work truck with manual air-conditioning and vinyl floors, while the XLT adds a bit more civility, like power windows. The Lariat is fancy enough for most buyers, unless you're a hedonist, in which case you'll want the dude-ranch ready King Ranch, its city slicker cousin, the Platinum, or the fully-loaded Limited.

For the new model year, Ford has treated the Super Duty to a front and rear face-lift, although the revisions are fairly conservative, so you can be forgiven for not noticing.

AP

Most powerful Super Duty yet launches with two new engine offerings including all-new advanced 7.3-liter gasoline V8 and upgraded third-generation 6.7-liter Power StrokeAE diesel V8.

More importantly, Ford has made a useful truck even more so, by offering options that tailor the truck to your needs, be it the Snow Plow Prep Package or the Tremor Off-Road Package that includes such as Trail Control, which is basically cruise control for off-road driving. If you opt for the Tremor, consider adding the factory-installed integrated winch by Warn, with 12,000 pounds of winching power. Someday, you may need it.

Yet the Super Duty can also serve as your mobile office thanks to its embedded 4G LTE modem with Wi-Fi access for up to 10 devices, as well as wireless charging and USB-C ports.

And it can tow tons, while making the task of backing up a trailer far easier thanks to Ford's Pro Trailer Backup Assist. Being a novice at such maneuvers, I found it makes it as easy as turning a knob and watching the screen as it guides you on which way to back up. You'll never again make a fool of yourself while towing. It's standard on King Ranch, Platinum and Limited models, and optional on XL, XLT and Lariat. Other driver assistance features include trailer sway control, lane-keeping alert, blind spot alert with trailer coverage, pre-collision assist with automatic emergency braking, and forward collision alert.

But the biggest surprise comes once you hit the road. Driving a Ford F-350 Limited unladen is truly comfortable, which you'd never expect. While rippled road surfaces are noticeable, they're not felt at all when trailering, as the suspension provides a fuss-free experience, with little to no excess body motions and excellent bump absorption. This is one medium-duty truck that doesn't beat you up.

Towing a 12,000-pound trailer in a Ford F-350 Dualie is stress-free, thanks to the effortless power of the new 7.3-liter diesel engine and automatic engine braking, a sort of cruise control for braking. As you head downhill, you let your foot off the brake, and that becomes your set speed, which the truck maintains. Large side mirrors with smaller secondary mirrors make it easy to keep track of the back of your trailer. Steering is light and easy, with just enough road feel coming through to keep things interesting.

Similarly, the Tremor proves remarkably adept off-road, especially considering its size. It will not only creep downhill but will do the same uphill. Its cameras give you front and 360-degree views, particularly helpful when cresting a hill or squeezing through a narrow spot. Its off-road ride is exemplary, with needed ride height, water fording ability and articulation to make traversing the forest primeval a snap. And on road, the only noticeable difference is the noticeably firmer feel over bumps with a bit of added road noise.

Altogether, it delivers a luxurious experience.

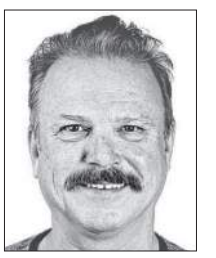
Interior fit and finish are impressive, and the Limited is upscale without being needlessly opulent. That said, the small infotainment screen makes the navigation system hard to use, as there are too many large buttons that rob space from the map. A bigger screen and updated software would be welcome.

Prices start at $34,035 for the F-250 XL Regular Cab, and top out at $90,860 for the F-450 Limited. Given the prices of trucks these days, you can pay this much and get far less capability.

Regardless of which trim you choose, you'll get a big, burly pickup that's ready to work or play, both on the tarmac and off. Ford's redesigned 2020 Super Duty proves its name with its outstanding merits.

Motormouth: Flat tires from roofing nails are no surprise

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Q: I have had two flat tires this summer. Both from nails. One was a roofing nail and the other was a 2 ¾-inch spike. In both cases only the head of the nail was showing on the tread. How does a nail lying horizontal on the pavement re-position itself, so the point drives itself into the tire and leaves only the head showing with (in my case) over 2 inches of the spike going straight into the wheel? I guess I'm lucky they weren't in the sidewall.

—T.K., Lombard, Ill.

A: Like many little kids, roofing nails like to stand on their heads. Getting one in your tire is no surprise, especially if you have replaced your shingles recently. (We have and, despite their best efforts, the roofers left us several souvenirs.) As for an eight-penny (8d) nail, that is a mystery. But there is no mystery as to the depth of the puncture. Driving around on a nail drives it home.

Q: Regarding your article about having to download an owner's manual for a Chrysler. How about a way to view this manual on the TV screen in the center of my dashboard? Now that would be a helpful improvement!

—R.F., Lakeland, Fla.

A: What a great idea. I can envision one argument against this, though. Reading a PDF file from a thumb drive while driving would be tantamount to texting (a big no-no) so a safety algorithm would be necessary. If you can only view the file while parked and in the accessory mode, why not simply use a laptop?

Q: I drive a 2017 Jetta with a 1.4-liter DOHC turbo direct injection engine. It is my first car with a turbo, and I love its performance. What if anything can I do to maintain the turbo?

—E.K., Boynton Beach, Fla.

A: Modern turbochargers are robust and need no special care. But if you have been hammering the car hard, such as on the racetrack, I suggest allowing the engine to idle about a minute before shutting it off to allow the turbo to cool a bit.

Q: When my car was still under warranty, an Audi service adviser shamed me for having my oil changed by an independent Bosch-certified mechanic using the gravity method. He advised I would void my warranty unless the dealer changed the oil using vacuum extraction as recommended by Audi. Now that my warranty coverage has passed, what's the real advice on this matter as I prepare for my next oil and filter change?

—M.P., Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

A: You can't go wrong pulling the drain plug. Some shops push the extraction method because it is quicker. But there is a risk of oil dripping from the hose during removal and a potential for an engine compartment fire. Remote? Maybe. But I am old-fashioned.

Q: My wife put about 8 gallons of E85 in our new Ford Escape without realizing the difference. Is this detrimental to the engine? The car had a quarter tank and she filled it to three-quarters full.

—T.H., Blaine, Minn.

A: For the past 5 or 6 years, the Escape has been a flex fuel vehicle meaning that it will run on regular gasoline or E85. Even cars that are not flex fuel compatible will not usually have any problems if occasionally misfueled. The alcohol has been rather diluted. Of course, fuel economy will be reduced temporarily.

Q: I own a 2016 Ford Edge with the 2.4-liter engine. Last week I went to my dealer for an oil change and safety inspection sticker. One adviser said I needed pads and rotors. The person that brought me the bill said I had at least 5,000 miles left on them and that I was almost in the red and when you get in the red, they wear down fast. I don't even know what "in the red" means. Should I have my brakes checked somewhere else?

—J.H., Boston

A: I presume that the service writer was using sports jargon to tell you that the brakes were nearing the end of their service life. Since you were getting a safety inspection (to get the sticker), the brakes passed the inspection; they are fine. If you are worried, have the pads inspected by any technician after 5,000 more miles. The pads will not wear more quickly.

Q: I have a 2014 Subaru Outback with 97,000 miles on it. I had it in recently for oil change and tire rotation at the dealer where I bought it. At my pickup the customer service representative said I needed to replace both front lower control arm bushings and links immediately! The cost would be $895. It takes 5 hours of labor plus parts. I was surprised as I take it in routinely for routine maintenance. It is now out of extended warranty and the last time it was in for oil and tire rotation it had 90,000 miles on it. I cannot see any leaking under the car, and it drives fine. Should I not drive it or should I get a second independent opinion?

—T.L., Evanston, Ill.

A: I am a big fan of getting a second opinion. But I would caution you not to tell the inspector what you were told at the dealership. There is a temptation to agree with the first diagnosis. Simply ask for a front suspension inspection.

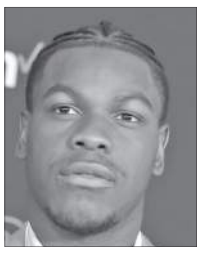
Q: How safe is it for any passenger of any age to breathe the air-conditioned air (which streaks windows when wiped) for a long time?

—K.C., Chicago

A: Running the air conditioning actually removes a lot of bad stuff. It also removes fog from the interior glass. But the A/C should not cause window streaking. This could be due to a small leak in the heater core allowing coolant (antifreeze) vapors to be deposited on the glass. Otherwise, glass clouding is usually due to plastics and vinyl outgassing. Outgassing and conditioned air are not considered harmful.

Life & Style

Perfume brand says cutting Black actor from ad was misstep


Boyega

NEW YORK (AP)— British perfume brand Jo Malone has apologized to Black actor John Boyega of "Star Wars" fame after cutting him out of the Chinese version of a cologne commercial he helped create.

Jo Malone London said in a statement to The Hollywood Reporter that the ad designed for Chinese audiences was a misstep and has been removed. The recreated ad replaced Boyega with Chinese star Liu Haoran.

"The concept for the film was based on John's personal experiences and should not have been replicated," it said.

Jo Malone and its parent company, Estée Lauder, didn't respond to emailed requests for comment Sunday. Boyega and his representatives also couldn't be reached for comment.

The original ad starring Boyega aired last year and was called "The London Gent." It features the London-born actor walking around the neighborhood where he grew up and riding a horse in a park, and it makes reference to his Nigerian heritage in a scene featuring West African attire.

It's not the first time Boyega has been deleted from a China-based ad. He played a leading role as Finn in 2015's "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," but he and other nonwhite characters were removed or diminished from a Chinese poster for the movie.

Boyega has spoken out about Hollywood racism, recently telling GQ that Black characters have been "pushed to the side" in Disney's "Star Wars" franchise.

Brother Scott Evans chimes in to needle Chris Evans after penis pic

As the world simultaneously reeled and swooned after actor Chris Evans' NSFW Instagram mishap Saturday, little brother Scott Evans chimed in as only a needling, mischievous younger sibling could.

"Was off social media for the day yesterday," he tweeted Sunday. "So. What'd I miss?"

And the fans answered, as they have been since the errant photos appeared, briefly and apparently accidentally, on Chris Evans' Instagram – a photo roll that popped into view as a video of his family playing a trivia game called "Heads Up" wound down. The Instagram story apparently included a penis image from his camera roll.

The errant photos disappeared almost as soon as they appeared, but it was enough to cause meme-mayhem across the Captain America fan-o-sphere.

Some people responded with kudos for the original pictures. Some responded with regular news, such as, "I walked 10,000 steps, which I haven't done in a year," or, "I became a grandma."

Someone else asked "much you and your brother have in common," and others simply said, "Please stop."

"LMAO" emojis abounded.

Then there were the sympathizers.

"You missed the world appreciating & loving Chris for the kind man that he is."

Someone else helpfully suggested that Scott please "teach your brother how to make folders in his gallery."

Chris Evans may or may not have figured that out yet, but his most recent Instagram snap is of him and his dog, both looking very happy.

Although the initial photo left little to the imagination, some mystery remained.

"At this time, it's unclear if it's Chris' camera roll or not," E! Online noted, "and he has yet to address it publicly." ***(New York Daily News)***

DISNEY VIA AP
This image released by Disney shows Yifei Liu, center, in the title role of "Mulan."

North American box office muted; 'Mulan' fizzles in China

(AP)—Moviegoing audiences in North America are not rushing back to the theater just yet and "Mulan" is also faltering in its China release as the global box office slowly comes back online in the COVID-19 era.

In the second major weekend for U.S. and Canadian movie theaters, Christopher Nolan's "Tenet" earned only $6.7 million from 2,910 locations, according to studio estimates Sunday. Warner Bros' sci-fi thriller was viewed as the main litmus test for whether audiences were ready to embrace the theatrical experience again, after nearly six months of shuttered theaters due to the pandemic.

Although it was enough to top the scattershot domestic releases, it also isn't enough to jumpstart the struggling exhibition industry. Warner Bros. has already pushed back its next major release, "Wonder Woman 1984," even further.

The weekend's only major new opener was Sony's PG-13 rom-com "The Broken Hearts Gallery," which earned an estimated $1.1 million from 2,204 North American locations. The film, from first-time writer director Natalie Krinsky and executive produced by Selena Gomez, is about a 20-something gallerist played by Geraldine Viswanathan who creates an art exhibit with souvenirs from her past relationships.

The studio is optimistic about its performance and potential.

"The early numbers are really encouraging," said Adrian Smith, the president of president of Sony Pictures domestic distribution.

Smith noted that the film will have a slow roll out as more theaters continue to open in the U.S.

Roughly two-thirds of the domestic market is open and theaters are operating at limited capacity and with limited showtimes. Two of the country's biggest markets, New York and Los Angeles, remain closed. Other still-closed markets include North Carolina, Michigan, New Mexico and the cities of Seattle and Portland.

Other notable domestic weekend numbers include Disney's "The New Mutants," which added $2.1 million from 2,704 locations in its third weekend and Solstice's Russell Crowe pic "Unhinged," which earned an additional $1.5 million in week four.

"Every week is a bit of a litmus test about how potential moviegoers are feeling about going to the theater," said Paul Dergarabedian, Comscore's senior media analyst. "I think audiences are slowly going back."

But, he noted, "you can't apply the norms of how we analyze or report the box office."

Sobering up changes dynamics of wife's closest relationship

DEAR ABBY: I know I have been blessed with wonderful relationships in my life. I have been married to the same lovely man for 25 years. I am also fortunate to have had the same best friend for 40 years. The problem? They drink.

Because of past behavior, I decided to get sober two years ago. I know I won't be able to drink socially again. I changed; they didn't.

We are all very high-functioning alcoholics. We never miss work and lead, for the most part, productive lives. I love them both so much. My husband is supportive and adoring. My best friend and I have gone through everything together. But Abby, I can't stand them after 8 p.m. after which they both repeat the same things over and over, and tell me how much they love me (in a slurry, sloppy way).

My life isn't bad, but this is making me miserable. I'm not asking that they quit drinking entirely, but for the sake of our relationship, I wish they'd just slow down some. Am I wrong to ask something of them that will change what was a big part of all of our lives for so long? I'm not willing to throw away long-term relationships, but I am truly at my wits' end.

ODD ONE OUT IN WASHINGTON

DEAR ODD ONE OUT: Because you can't control the behavior of anyone else, you have two choices—change the way you react to the person(s) or end the relationship(s). In this case, I vote for the former. Because your husband and your good friend are so drunk after 8 p.m. that they can no longer clearly pronounce their declarations of affection, plan some socially distanced visits with other sober individuals a few nights a week, including support group meetings for yourself, if you're not already attending them.

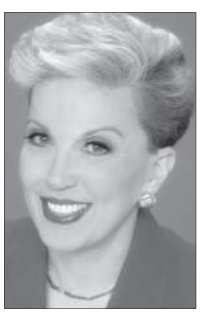
DEAR ABBY: I'm 16, and I feel as though my mother (a single parent) does not respect that I have differing political opinions. She is very liberal and is a registered Democrat. I am very conservative and, as of a few weeks ago, a registered Republican.

When I want to leave the house, if I'm wearing any of my conservative slogan apparel, she yells at me and tells me I'm not allowed to represent "us" like "that." I always do my best to be respectful of her beliefs and to have a civil conversation with her about politics, but she just ends up yelling at me and telling me I'm never going to get a girlfriend or find a job with my beliefs. At the same time, she's the most loving, supportive person I know when it comes to anything BUT politics. What can I do to get her to respect who I am and what I stand for?

FREE-THINKING GUY IN D.C.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

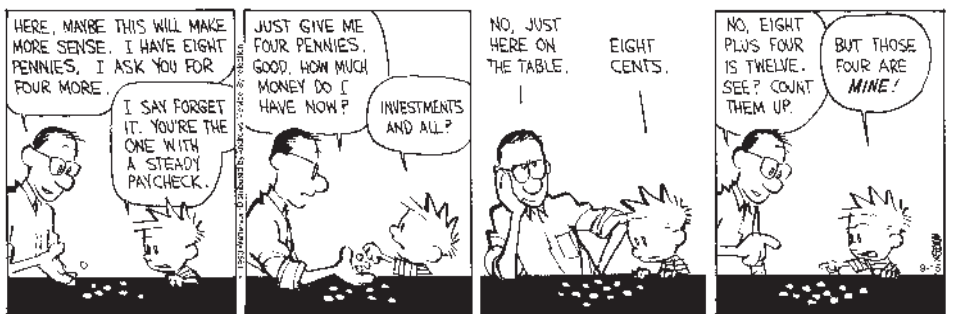
DEAR GUY: Be patient with her and remain respectful. Because you understand that your mother is the most loving and supportive person you know (except when it comes to politics), try to accept that she's being protective in the only way she knows how—warning that in this current environment, expressing political beliefs can have lasting consequences. No matter what your political leanings are, as you mature I'm confident you will find a girlfriend and job that are compatible.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HERE, MAYBE THIS WILL MAKE MORE SENSE. I HAVE EIGHT PENNIES, I ASK YOU FOR FOUR MORE.
I SAY FORGET IT. YOU'RE THE ONE WITH A STEADY PAYCHECK.
JUST GIVE ME FOUR PENNIES. GOOD. HOW MUCH MONEY DO I HAVE NOW?
INVESTMENTS AND ALL?
NO, JUST HERE ON THE TABLE.
EIGHT CENTS.
NO, EIGHT PLUS FOUR IS TWELVE. SEE? COUNT THEM UP.
BUT THOSE FOUR ARE MINE!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

GREETINGS, EARTHLING!
WE HAVE TRAVELED 65 MILLION LIGHT-YEARS TO YOUR PLANET
WE HEAR YOU HAVE BACON!
DEFINITELY WORTH THE TRIP!

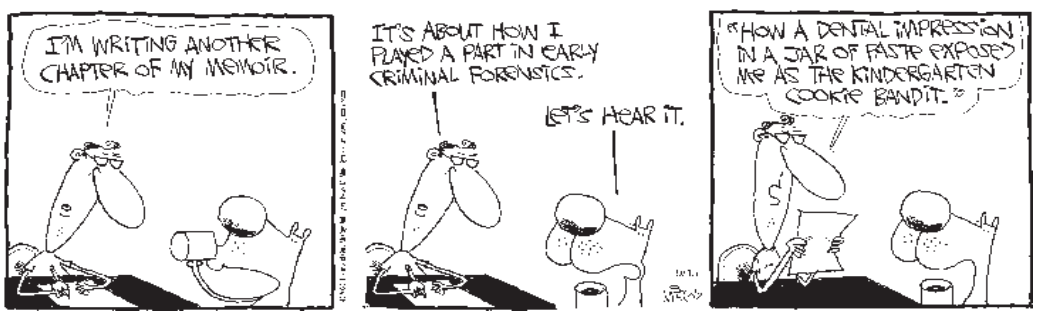
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SO IT WAS SASQUATCH TAKING OUR TRASH OUT LAST NIGHT!
HE WAS SO HAIRY AND GRUMBLY!
HIS BACK, ALL FURRY AND HUNCHED... IT STILL GIVES ME CHILLS.
YOU'RE IMPLYING I SHOULD WAX MY BACK?
OR MOW IT, IF THE MOWER CAN HANDLE IT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'M WRITING ANOTHER CHAPTER OF MY MEMOIR.
IT'S ABOUT HOW I PLAYED A PART IN EARLY CRIMINAL FORENSICS.
LET'S HEAR IT.
"HOW A DENTAL IMPRESSION IN A JAR OF PASTE EXPOSED ME AS THE KINDERGARTEN COOKIE BANDIT."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Reunion attendee
5 Throat clearer
9 Third degree?
12 Roman emperor
13 TV's "Warrior Princess"
14 "— -haw!" (rodeo cry)
15 Yellow flower
17 "Today" rival, briefly
18 Always
19 Curry spice
21 Bolivian city
24 Poet Teasdale
25 "The game —!"
26 "Moby-Dick" author
30 Ran into
31 French school
32 Actor McShane
33 Annual Alaskan race
35 Theater award
36 "Mona —"
37 Decaf brand
38 Zesty dip
40 — -bitty
42 Brit. record label
43 Ginormous amount
48 Bill's partner
49 Lunch hour
50 Store sign
51 Tax form ID
52 Alan of "The West Wing"
53 Went on horseback

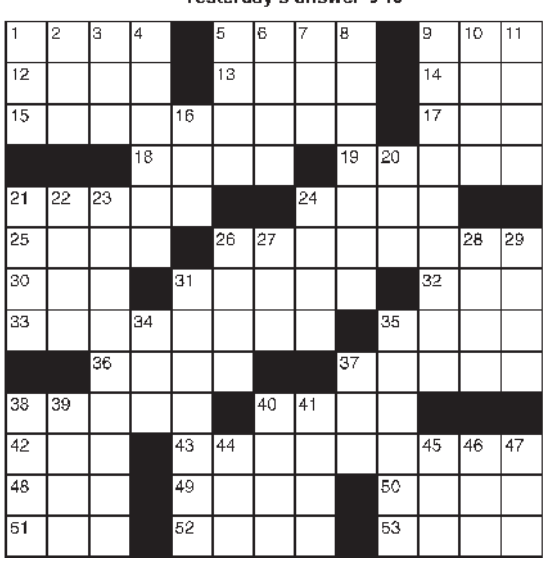
DOWN

1 Moreover
2 Salonga of "Miss Saigon"
3 Coffee vessel
4 New
5 Wheel bar
6 One with will power?
7 Rock's Brian
8 Guy's sanctuary
9 Shaw play
10 Half (Pref.)
11 Campus bigwig
16 Leading lady?
20 Swiss canton
21 — Valley, Calif.
22 Second-hand
23 Debutante ball
24 Santa's ride
26 "— Breckinridge"
27 Green prefix
28 Tall and thin
29 New Age singer
31 Garfield's favorite dish
34 Poetic contraction
35 "Cardigan" singer Swift
37 Cardinal cap letters
38 Brief moments
39 Novelist Oz
40 Sport shirt brand
41 Turner or Fey
44 MSN rival
45 Wall St. debut
46 British ref. work
47 SSW opposite

Solution time: 22 mins.

P	A	R	T		P	M	S		S	W	A	T
O	P	T	I	M	I	S			C	O	L	E
S	T	E	E	R	A	G	E		R	O	T	E
			D	I	F		P	O		S	O	N
E	S	P	Y	S		A	D	A	M			
S	L	O	E		S	C	O	R	P	I	O	
C	O	S		S	T	O	W	S		D	A	S
	W	E	S	T	E	R	N		O	O	H	S
			N	A	A	N		L	U	L	U	S
R	E	F	O	R	M		V	A				
O	R	E	O		S	T	E	M	C	E	L	L
L	I	S	P		L	N	E	A	H	N	E	D
L	E	S	S		P	I	S		Y	E	N	S

Yesterday's answer 9-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Prince Harry, 36; Tom Hardy, 43; Tommy Lee Jones, 74; Oliver Stone, 74.

Happy Birthday: Finish what you start. Put everything in its place before you market what you want to do. It's time to build a solid foundation that will lead you into the future with substance. How you perceive your journey will have a lot to do with the success you achieve. Don't be afraid to do things differently. Aim to stand out, not blend in. Your numbers are 3, 10, 14, 23, 30, 34, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take a day to play. Do something that will boost your morale or help you bring about positive physical change. Start a new fitness routine or nutritional diet that will help you build strength and ward off illness. Avoid risks and practice moderation. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Aim to please, but not at your own expense. Offer kindness and compassion, not your cash. If the advice you offer comes from the heart, it will be well-received. Put greater emphasis on your achievements. Hard work will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Inconsistency is apparent. Ask questions, and be precise to avoid a misunderstanding. Emotions will flare if someone doesn't give you an accurate description of a situation that involves you. Proceed with caution, and stick to the truth. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You'll stumble across valuable information through conversations with friends, relatives or colleagues. Verify what you discover before you pass the information along or put it into practice. Be open to suggestions, not spending money. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Assess the situation and take action. You have to get things right the first time if you don't want to face criticism or complaints. A change someone makes will leave you in an awkward position. Be prepared to proceed on your own. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* As information unfolds, you will flip back and forth. When in doubt, you are best not to make a move. Listen, assess and regain your faith in what you feel is best for you before you change direction or commit to something uncertain. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Listen to your inner voice, and make your move. Let your emotions take over, and act out how you feel. Truth matters, and saying what's on your mind will help you discover the best path to take. Don't fold under pressure. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Protect your reputation, and make the necessary adjustments. Gauge what's best for you and the ones you love. Think outside the box, and make adjustments that will protect your safety, well-being and the relationships that are important to you. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep moving forward. Refuse to let anyone come between you and your goal. Stay on top of new technology and any economic changes that might jeopardize your financial standing. Avoid impulsive moves. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* It's time to make a move. Look over your finances, and you'll find a way to improve your current situation. Let your gut feeling lead you in a direction that promises security and long-term success. Don't get angry; get moving. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Sit tight, be an observer and strategize how best to move forward when the time is right. You can make personal improvements if you pool your resources with someone you love. Be willing to do the legwork, and success will follow. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Speak the truth, and clear the air. Focus on building strong unions with the people who are most likely to have your back. Someone from your past will offer emotional insight into a situation that's confusing you. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: *You are proactive, intense and emotional. You are opportunistic and resourceful.*

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4		9			7	6		
	8		3		5		1	4
6							3	
1							2	
	4	8				5	7	
	6							9
	2							1
7	9		1		2		4	
		1	9			8		2

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	2	6	4	5	3	7	1	9
5	3	4	7	1	9	6	8	2
9	1	7	6	8	2	5	3	4
3	7	5	8	9	1	4	2	6
4	9	1	5	2	6	3	7	8
2	6	8	3	7	4	1	9	5
6	4	9	2	3	7	8	5	1
7	5	2	1	6	8	9	4	3
1	8	3	9	4	5	2	6	7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

PREPARING BRUNCH AT HOME Solution: 8 letters

S	P	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	R	Y	I	N	G	S
D	Y	W	A	I	T	A	R	N	B	L	N	L	S	L
I	T	A	C	O	C	U	S	A	S	T	A	A	C	E
S	E	R	R	T	I	T	C	E	B	I	S	E	L	E
H	A	M	O	T	E	O	C	A	C	O	R	I	M	P
E	S	A	S	L	N	I	G	O	M	E	M	I	L	K
S	S	A	E	A	U	E	S	I	A	A	N	C	I	S
T	E	M	H	J	L	N	M	L	S	A	O	O	O	T
S	O	M	C	S	E	A	C	H	I	Ⓤ	O	F	B	N
T	T	U	I	B	L	Y	D	H	S	S	Ⓝ	F	K	E
S	A	F	U	A	B	S	R	T	S	I	N	Ⓔ	E	I
E	T	F	Q	K	A	A	A	R	P	M	R	E	Ⓜ	R
U	O	I	S	I	T	E	F	F	U	B	A	U	T	T
G	P	N	R	N	M	S	E	N	O	C	S	J	O	U
S	G	G	E	G	A	S	U	A	S	A	L	M	O	N

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Bacon, Bagels, Baking, Boil, Buffet, Cereal, Coffee, Curry, Dishes, Easy, Eggs, Friends, Fruit, Frying, Grits, Guests, Hash, Jams, Juices, List, Lunch, Mash, Meal, Meats, Menu, Milk, Mimosas, Muffin, Noon, Nourishment, Nutrients, Omelets, Plan, Potatoes, Quiches, Salad, Salmon, Sausage, Scones, Sleep, Social, Soups, Table, Taco, Teas, Toast, Trays, Utensils, Wait, Warm

Yesterday's Answer: Living Room

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 60 order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Nuggets take series vs Clippers to Game 7

FLORIDA (AP)—Flights home from the NBA's bubble are planned whenever a team is on the cusp of elimination, just in case they're needed.

Denver is in no hurry to board that plane.

The never-say-die Nuggets pulled off another season-saving comeback—and, after rallying from 19 points down with 22 minutes remaining, they'll see the Los Angeles Clippers in Game 7 on Tuesday night for a berth in the Western Conference finals.

Nikola Jokic had 34 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists, and the Nuggets topped the Clippers 111-98 on Sunday to even their West semifinal series at three games apiece. The Nuggets will try to become the first team in NBA history to rally from a pair of 3-1 deficits in the same postseason, after doing so against Utah in the West first round.

Jamal Murray scored 21 for Denver, which got 16 from Gary Harris, 13 from Michael Porter Jr. and 10 from Monte Morris.

Paul George had 33 points, Kawhi Leonard scored 25 and Lou Williams had 14 for the Clippers, who are now 0-7 in games where they could clinch a trip to the conference finals.

The Nuggets were down 16 at the half—the fourth time out of six games in the series when they trailed by at least that many in a game—and eventually fell behind by as many as 19 in the third quarter.

Of course, the Nuggets flourish when they're in trouble.

They saved their season in Game 5 of the opening round by rallying from 15 points down in the third quarter against Utah to set the tone for a rally from a 3-1 series deficit. They saved themselves again in Game 5 of this series, getting down by 16 before coming back to save the season again.

AP

Denver Nuggets' Nikola Jokic (15) blocks Los Angeles Clippers' Ivica Zubac (40) during the first half of an NBA conference semifinal playoff game, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

On Sunday, it was more of the same.

George hit a 3-pointer shortly after halftime for a 19-point lead and Leonard made a pair of free throws with 8:27 left in the third quarter to put the Clippers up 73-55. That's apparently when the Nuggets decided it was time to get going.

Over the next 10 minutes, the Nuggets outscored the Clippers 30-8. Denver had eight different players score in that stretch, Murray and Morris scoring seven apiece, and the big deficit became an 85-81 lead with 10:16 left.

They ran away and hid from there. Now, it's onto Game 7.

Not in panic mode

Leonard's eyes focused on the rim while the Denver defense converged around him. He pump faked once. Then again. Then again.

And finally, when the opening was at its smallest, he put the ball up and scored.

Patience and calm—they're the trademarks for the Clippers' best player.

Paul George, one of the league's more amicable stars, has embraced it too.

But after a loss in Game 6 Sunday inside the NBA bubble, there should be no calm. There should be no patience.

The Clippers are on the cusp of another historical collapse, another 3-1 lead blown thanks to another blown double-digit lead. But if the gravity of living up to everyone's worst expectations is too great for the Clippers, they're not saying it.

"It's positive," George said of the postgame locker room mood. "This group's staying together. We still in the driver seat. It's not a panic mode."

The Clippers maintain that as the pressure has gone up, that they haven't tightened, an assessment that just hasn't checked out with the Clippers unable to slam the door for the second straight game. They've blamed things like a lack of pace and not a lack of mental fortitude.

"It's pressure every game," Leonard said. "Obviously, no one wants to go home, but just got to go out there, play your game and just live with the results."

D'Antoni won't return to Rockets

D'Antoni has told the Houston Rockets that he will not be back as coach with them next season, essentially choosing free agency over a return to the club with whom he has spent the last four seasons.

D'Antoni told the Rockets on Sunday—not even a full day after the team's season ended with a playoff loss to the Los Angeles Lakers—that he would seek coaching options elsewhere for next season and not return to Houston. Team owner Tilman Fertitta confirmed the move later Sunday.

"I would like to thank Mike D'Antoni and his wife, Laurel, for their incredible contributions to the Houston Rockets organization and the Houston community," Fertitta said. "Mike is a true professional and an amazing basketball mind. He is a winner, and we have been blessed to have such an outstanding coach and leader to work with the past four seasons."

It was not totally unexpected; the Rockets and D'Antoni couldn't agree on an extension last year, meaning he was coaching this season with no guarantee of his future in Houston. D'Antoni had already been mentioned as a potential candidate for vacancies in Indiana and Philadelphia, but when the season ended Saturday night there appeared to be at least some hope of his remaining in Houston.

"We've got a great organization, great city, great fans, team's great," D'Antoni said after the Game 5 loss to the Lakers. "I mean, everything's good here. We'll see what happens, but I couldn't ask for a better situation. I had four years and hopefully it keeps going. You just never know."

But sometime between late Saturday night and early Sunday afternoon, he knew that it was time to move on.

Herro's rise for Heat has come fast

FLORIDA (AP)—The secret can be told now: When the NBA was shut down for a few months because of the coronavirus pandemic, when most players in the league didn't have a place to play because team facilities were closed as a precaution, Miami guard Tyler Herro was in a gym all the time.

A couple of hours in the morning. A couple more at night. Almost every day.

"I don't think the Heat even know I did this," Herro told The Associated Press.

Given the way he's played since the season resumed, the Heat probably could have suspected he used his downtime wisely. No rookie in these playoffs is averaging more points (14.7), 3-pointers (2.3), assists (3.3) and minutes (32.3) per game than Herro, the baby-faced 20-year-old who'll make his Eastern Conference finals debut when Miami opens its series against the Boston Celtics on Tuesday night.

Herro averaged 16.5 points in the first round of the playoffs, the most by a Heat rookie in a first round ever. And in the second round, he became just the second Miami rookie to average double-digits in scoring—Dwyane Wade being the other.

"He doesn't leave it to chance," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "For a young kid, he's pretty relentless with his work ethic and his consistency."

Exhibit A: finding a gym during a pandemic, something a lot of veterans couldn't even pull off.

The gym access came through many fortunate breaks. Herro changed residences during the pandemic, and his new place was near a high school gym. His agent knew somebody who knew somebody, and before long, Herro was spending mornings and nights working on everything.

"We weren't supposed to be in the gym, but I had a mask on the whole time," Herro said. "I just kept it off social media for the most part, put my head down and went to work. I lived in the gym. We went to work and the whole time I was hoping that I would be on a platform like this, be on the big stage and be ready to go."

He's had that mantra since draft night.

Herro was the 13th pick in the 2019 draft. The Heat had him ranked higher than that; he was the highest name left on their list when their turn to be on the clock rolled around, so it was a no-brainer to Miami to select Herro out of Kentucky.

The kid impressed from the jump: 14 points in his first game, 14 more in his second, 29 in his fourth. That's when the public probably started becoming aware, or maybe in December, when he made a stepback transition 3-pointer for the lead late in regulation in a game Miami rallied to win over Philadelphia in overtime.

Internally, Miami knew what it had in Herro long before those games.

Heat forward Jimmy Butler invited Herro to work out with him in Chicago about a month before training camp. Butler had two motives: He wanted to show Herro the ropes, but he also wanted to see if the rookie could be someone worthy of his trust. They woke up before sunrise to play some medicine ball volleyball game on the beach. Butler won every game. But the rookie showed what Butler wanted to see.

"He showed me how hard he works, how he doesn't like to lose," Butler said. "He kept coming back, like, `I'm going to win this time, I'm going to win this time.' The work was always there. So, it's no surprise to me that he's been playing the way he is.

Huge comeback gives Thiem US Open title

AP
Dominic Thiem of Austria returns a shot to Alexander Zverev of Germany during the men's singles final of the US Open tennis championships, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP) —A U.S. Open unlike any other finished unlike any other—with an unprecedented fifth-set tiebreaker as Dominic Thiem became the first man in 71 years to win the final after dropping the opening two sets.

So close to defeat in a nearly empty Arthur Ashe Stadium—fans were banned because of the coronavirus pandemic—Thiem slowly but surely turned things around against a faltering Alexander Zverev and pulled out a 2-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (6) victory at Flushing Meadows for his first Grand Slam title.

The match ended with both men fighting leg cramps and, clearly, nerves.

"Somehow," said Thiem, a 27-year-old from Austria, "the belief today was stronger than the body, and I'm super happy about that."

When a backhand from Zverev landed wide on the third championship point, a weary Thiem dropped to his back way behind the baseline and covered his face with his hands. When he arose, he was met by Zverev, who walked around the net to clasp hands, then embrace his friend and foe, two sights rarely seen in this era of social distancing.

Thiem then rested his head on the shoulder of the taller Zverev, who himself came within two points of what would have been his first major triumph.

"I wish we could have two winners today," Thiem said. "I think we both deserved it."

He is the first man to win the American Grand Slam tournament after trailing 2-0 in sets in the final since Pancho Gonzalez did it against Ted Schroeder in 1949 at an event then known as the U.S. Championships and held in Forest Hills.

The event never had been settled by a fifth-set tiebreaker; no major tournament ever had until Novak Djokovic edged Roger Federer that way at Wimbledon in 2019.

"I was a few games away, a few points away," said Zverev, who was trying to give Germany its first male Grand Slam champion since Boris Becker in the 1990s. "I'm 23 years old. I don't think it's my last chance."

Zverev choked up when he mentioned that his parents hadn't been able to travel to New York because they tested positive for COVID-19, although he said they are now healthy.

As Thiem stepped forward to pose for pictures with his shiny new bit of hardware, Zverev remained a few feet behind, one hand clutching his less-impressive silver tray, the other hand on a hip.

The proceedings took 4 hours, 2 minutes. And to think: After just 1 1/2 hours, Zverev was up by two sets and a break in the third at 2-1.

"The match turned when he broke me for the first time in the third set," Zverev said. "He started playing much better, and I started playing much worse."

Zverev, of all people, should have known what might have seemed like an impossible hill to climb for Thiem was, indeed, achievable. After all, in Thursday's semifinals, it was Zverev who trailed 2-0 in sets against Pablo Carreño Busta before coming back to win.

Thiem began the day 0-3 in Grand Slam finals, but always faced a member of the Big Three of men's tennis in those others. This time, he was the favorite and came out jittery, but eventually worked his way out of that, while Zverev went from cool and confident to passive and pushed around.

The fifth set was just as back-and-forth as the other four, the mistakes rising with the tension and the history in the offing.

Pujols hits homer No. 660 as Angels beat Rockies

DENVER (AP)—A few weeks ago, Albert Pujols received a text out of the blue: "It's your time now. Go get it."

That meant a lot coming from none other than Willie Mays, the Hall of Famer he was trying to catch.

Pujols tied Mays for fifth place on the career homer list with a two-run shot in the eighth inning, and the Los Angeles Angels rallied for a 5-3 win over the slumping Colorado Rockies on Sunday.

"To be able to have my name in the sentence with Willie Mays is unbelievable," Pujols said. "I'm really humbled."

Trailing 3-2, the 40-year-old Pujols lined a fastball from Carlos Estevez (1-3) into the empty seats in left field for his 660th homer. He was eagerly greeted by his teammates following his first homer since Aug. 4.

"I was just telling them, `Finally, I hit one in the air," Pujols cracked.

Pujols now trails only Barry Bonds (762), Hank Aaron (755), Babe Ruth (714) and Alex Rodriguez (696) on the career home run list

The ball was easily retrieved from the stands with no fans to fight over the keepsake—or celebrate the milestone. Pujols will keep the ball, but his bat went to third base coach Brian Butterfield, a Mays fan.

The secret to Pujols' prodigious power? He doesn't try to go deep. That simple.

"You go out there and try put a good swing," Pujols said. "Every 660 that I have now, that's what I try to do every time."

Cubs 12, Brewers 0

Alec Mills cruised through baseball's second no-hitter this season in just the 15th start of his major league career, leading the Chicago Cubs over the Milwaukee Brewers.

Mills (5-3) threw 114 pitches and hardly had any close calls in Chicago's 16th no-hitter.

Dodgers 8, Astros 1

Mookie Betts, Chris Taylor and AJ Pollock homered, leading the Dodgers to the victory.

Eight relievers combined on a four-hitter. Brusdar Graterol opened with an inning of one-hit ball, striking out three.

Padres 6, Giants 0

Mike Clevinger pitched a two-hitter for his second career shutout to open a doubleheader forced because of a false positive COVID-19 test. Clevinger (3-2) struck out seven and walked one in seven innings for his second career complete game.

Braves 8, Nationals 4

Adam Duvall and Ozzie Albies hit two-run homers in the sixth as Atlanta overcame a 4-2 deficit against Max Scherzer (4-3).

Scherzer allowed six runs in 5 1/3 innings, the most off him since seven by Miami on April 20, 2019.

Yankees 3, Orioles 1

Gleyber Torres had a tiebreaking, two-run double with two outs in the eighth inning for his first career pinch hit, and New York (26-21) completed a four-game sweep that opened a 5 1/2-game lead over the Orioles (20-26) for the AL's eighth and final playoff spot.

Blue Jays 7, Mets 4

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. hit a home run completely out of Sahlen Field and Hyun Jin Ryu (4-1) made the early lead stand up, winning his fourth straight decision by allowing one run in six innings.

Santiago Espinal hit a three-run double in a five-run sixth inning for the Blue Jays, 3+ games behind Tampa Bay for the AL East lead.

Red Sox 6, Rays 3

Christian Vazquez and Christian Arroyo homered as last-place Boston gained a four-game split against Tampa Bay.

Martin Perez (3-4) gave up three runs and five hits over five innings.

Marlins 2, Phillies 1, Game 1
Marlins 8, Phillies 1, Game 2

Braxton Garrett (1-0) allowed three hits over five innings to win his major league debut, and Miami completed a doubleheader sweep to leapfrog Philadelphia for second place in the NL East.

Rookie Sixto Sanchez (3-1) pitched a three-hitter over seven innings to win the opener, his first complete game in five major league starts.

Royals 11, Pirates 0

Brad Keller (4-2) pitched a five-hitter for his first major league shutout, and Kansas City won its sixth in a row.

Salvador Perez and Hunter Dozier homered to help Kansas City win its second consecutive series.

Twins 7, Indians 5

Nelson Cruz hit his 16th homer, and Marwin Gonzalez, Ryan Jeffers and Josh Donaldson also connected as Minnesota completed a weekend sweep and won for the 10th time in 12 games. The Twins stayed one game back of AL Central-leading Chicago.

White Sox 5, Tigers 2

Eloy Jimenez homered, Yoan Moncada had three hits and Chicago won its fourth straight overall and ninth in a row against Detroit. Jimenez had two hits and two RBI for the White Sox.

Reds 10, Cardinals 5

Andrew Miller loaded the bases by hitting pinch-hitter Aristides Aquino with a pitch, followed with a tying four-pitch walk to Freddy Galvis and threw a wild pitch that put Cincinnati ahead in a three-run seventh inning.

Rangers 6, Athletics 3

Lance Lynn (6-2) struck out a season-high 10 in seven innings retired 17 straight after the first two batters reached. Rougned Odor hit a tiebreaking three-run homer and last-place Texas gained a four-game split.

Mariners 7, Diamondbacks 3

Donovan Walton had three RBI, and Seattle took two of three.

Jose Marmolejos had two hits and drove in a run, and Phillip Ervin scored twice and drove in a run.

Brady's Bucs debut a flop; Saints win

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Drew Brees and Tom Brady, the two leading passers in NFL history, couldn't muster vintage performances in the first NFL game featuring two starting quarterbacks in their 40s.

But while Brees avoided game-turning mishaps with an offense he's led since 2006, Brady suffered some costly cross-ups with his new team.

Brady threw two interceptions in his Tampa Bay debut, Alvin Kamara scored touchdowns running and receiving, and the New Orleans Saints beat the Buccaneers 34-23 on Sunday.

"I made some just bad, terrible turnovers," Brady said. "I obviously have got to do a lot better job."

The first of Brady's interceptions led to Kamara's 6-yard touchdown run. The second pick thrown by the new, 43-year-old Bucs QB—who left the New England Patriots in free agency after 20 years and six Super Bowl triumphs—was returned 36 yards for a touchdown by Janoris Jenkins.

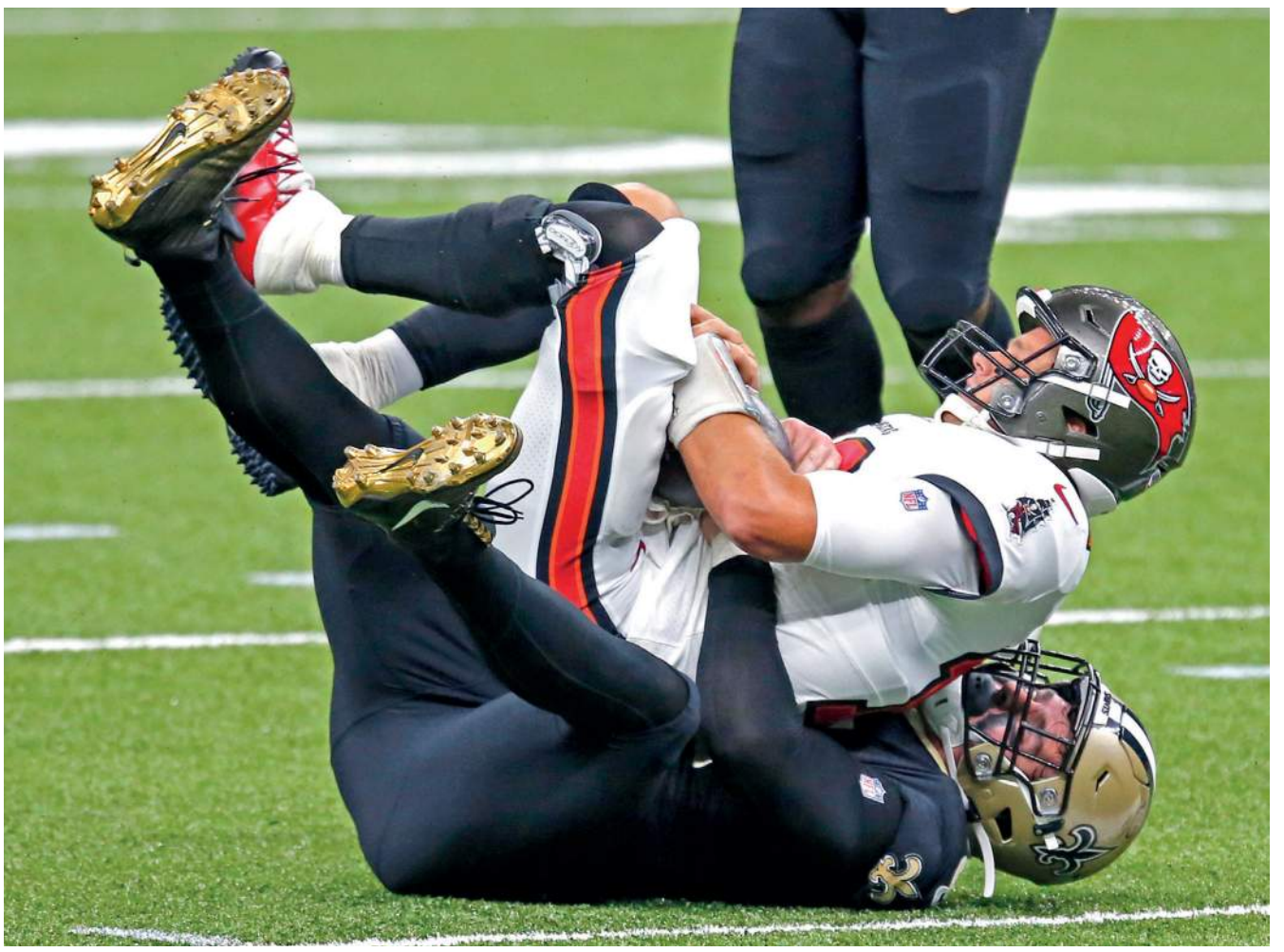
"Win the turnover battle like we did, have a turnover for a touchdown, you're a 90-something percent winner in those games," Saints coach Sean Payton said. "Just a lot of things happened in that game that despite how you play, those things can help you win games. The energy and effort I was pleased with."

The 41-year-old Brees passed for 160 yards and two TDs. He did not turn the ball over and took only one sack. His first TD pass was a dump-off to Kamara from 12 yards out. In the fourth quarter he hit free-agent signing Emmanuel Sanders for a 5-yard score.

"I'd probably say I played awful," Brees said. "Certainly, we are used to playing at a much higher level offensively and especially in the passing game. So, we'll get that back on track."

Still, Brees found satisfaction in beating Brady's Bucs.

"Of course, it's significant and it's unique and I'd be lying to you if I said to you it didn't mean a little bit more," Brees said. "I've got so much love and respect for (Brady) and what he's able to accomplish.



AP

Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady is sacked by New Orleans Saints defensive end Trey Hendrickson (91) in the first half of an NFL game in New Orleans, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020.

Cardinals 24, 49ers 20

DeAndre Hopkins had a career-high 14 catches for 151 yards in his Arizona debut and set up Kenyan Drake's 1-yard TD run with 5:03 to play.

Kyler Murray threw for 230 yards and a touchdown and ran for 91 yards and another score to help the Cardinals overcome a pair of fourth-quarter deficits to beat the defending NFC champion 49ers.

Chargers 16, Bengals 13

Heisman Trophy winner Joe Burrow ran 23 yards untouched for a touchdown—the best moment of his NFL debut—but the Chargers roughed him up and rallied.

Burrow got his first snaps in the NFL and learned the hard way what it's like to face a tough front line.

Washington 27, Eagles 17

Peyton Barber ran for two touchdowns and Dwayne Haskins rallied Washington from a 17-point deficit.

After falling behind 17-0 following a pair of touchdown passes by Carson Wentz, Washington relied on a punishing defense and opportunistic offense in its first game.

Ravens 38, Browns 6

Looking every bit like the reigning NFL MVP, Lamar Jackson threw for 275 yards and three touchdowns, ruining Kevin Stefanski's debut as Cleveland's head coach in a game played without fans in attendance.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic kept the seats empty and the play was sloppy following a preseason without any games, two constants prevailed: Jackson was the focal point of a high-powered offense and the Browns lost another opener.

Patriots 21, Dolphins 11

Cam Newton looked just fine as Tom Brady's replacement, rushing for two touchdowns.

Newton rushed for 15 times for 75 yards and threw for 155 yards, leading a Patriots offensive attack that did most of its damage on the ground in their first game since the departure of Brady to Tampa Bay as a free agent. Newton was 15-of-19 passing.

Packers 43, Vikings 36

Aaron Rodgers took full advantage of the young cornerbacks and the empty stadium in Minnesota, beginning his 13th season as Green Bay's starting quarterback by passing for 364 yards and four touchdowns.

Davante Adams was predictably the biggest beneficiary with a career-high, franchise-record-tying 14 catches for 156 yards and two scores.

Seahawks 38, Falcons 25

Russell Wilson was cooking right from the start, throwing four touchdown passes. With the Falcons not allowing fans for at least their first two homes games because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Seahawks took advantage of what was essentially a neutral site to pull away in the second half.

Wilson completed 31-of-35 passes for 322 yards, throwing a pair of TD passes in the first quarter as Seattle built a 14-12 halftime lead.

BABAC

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have the talent and right attitude and given enough opportunities and more experience playing off-island, they will continue to get better," Babac said.

As for his fellow referees, Babac hopes they will continue educating themselves, particularly with the new FIBA rules and share ideas during, before, and after matches. They encouraged them to remain open to constructive criticism from fellow referees, coaches, and players for better understanding of the game. Babac also acknowledged organizers of leagues who trusted him to officiate their games and wishes to see more balance competition on Saipan and inclusion of referees training before the start of every tournament.

"My sincerest gratitude to all of you and to the late Arnold Mesa, who encouraged me to referee games, again."

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spread of the COVID-19 virus.

New tryouts

Meanwhile, the NMIFA will hold tryouts for a new JNA class—this time for an all-female squad.

The first trial is scheduled for Sept. 17, while the second and last is for Sept. 24 and both tryouts will run from 4pm to 6pm at the NMISTC.

Interested players must be born between 2008 and 2010 to be eligible and are required to present a copy of the negative test results for COVID-19.

For more information, contact Angeles at 235-0171 or send email to jangeles@nmifa.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two players battle for possession during last month's tryout for the fall class of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Junior National Academy at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players in the U12 age group participate in a scrimmage during a tryout session for the fall class of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Junior National Academy last month at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Nuggets take series vs Clippers to Game 7

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Huge comeback gives Thiem US Open title

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26 players make grade

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Phoenix Gross is among the players selected to join the fall class of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Junior National Academy.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After a series of tryouts, the fall class of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Junior National Academy has been completed with 26 players making up the select pool.

Siblings Kaye and Mark Costales led the list and are joined by fellow Tan-Holdings Football Club players Kohjiro Goto, Terel Hix, Daniel Sano, Julie Chavez, and Matty Angeles. Rounding out the elite group are Kanoa Football Club's Valerie Estella, Paul Lizama, Tyrone James Manipon, and Arstin Tagabuel; Matansa Football Club's Yutaka Kadokura and Nolan Ngewakl; MP United Football Club's Akeen Edvalson, Taiga Namai-Scoffins, Jack Raho, Moshe Sikkel, and Henry and Stephan Yeom; Paire Football Club's Mary Devine Amog, Phoenix Sapphire Gross, Justidy Mizutani, and Caurie Stafller; Southern United Football Club's Michael Elayda; and Wynona Julene Blas.

"The NMIFA is pleased to name the members of the Junior National Academy Fall 2020 Team. Congratulations! We are very happy to see a great number of participants and their best efforts during the tryouts," JNA head coach Jersh Angeles said.

JNA is one of NMIFA's grassroots programs and is designed for players in the 10 to 12 age group. Players are picked from a group that joined the five-part series of tryouts and those who belonged to the spring class, which had its training sessions cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Players selected for the fall class will be prepared for higher-level competitions and national team training system, as they are scheduled to train starting this Thursday until December. One more training session is slated for this month (Sept. 24) at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville from 4pm to 6pm, while there will be five sessions next month (Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29). The last five practice sessions are set for Nov. 5, 12, and 19 and Dec. 3 and 10.

"Please continue supporting your child/children by providing them nutritious meals, keeping them hydrated, and making them sleep at least eight hours the night before the training so they can perform well and avoid any injuries," said Angeles.

The class' training sessions will strictly follow health and safety measures that both NMIFA and the CNMI government set in support of the CNMI's campaign against the

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Babac thankful for experience calling games on Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

When basketball leagues on Saipan resume, they will be missing referee Richard Babac.

A former referee in Asia's first pro league, the Philippine Basketball Association, Babac returned home yesterday after living on island for more than four years and calling matches in various tournaments here.

"I had a great experience officiating games on Saipan. I am thankful for the opportunity to be able to handle games and continue my education as a referee and also share my knowledge to people who love the sport, especially to my fellow referees," the 50-year-old said.

While working in different leagues on island, Babac said he was able to improve his communication skills and be more patient in explaining to coaches and players the calls he made or addressing their concerns. He is also thankful for getting the chance to call matches both in in indoor and outdoor leagues.

"I am used to officiating games in indoor courts back in the Philippines, so it was really a different experience when I had to work in outdoor venues. There are many challenges when you call games in an outdoor setting, particularly the court dimension you have to cover. Referees need much better view of the situation during the game to be consistent and make appropriate calls," Babac said.

Before leaving Saipan, the former Armatech employee managed to officiate games in leagues involving different age groups—high school tournaments, masters, open, and U18—and saw players that have the potential to move up to higher-level competitions, such as the collegiate and semi pro ranks.

"There are players who have a chance to make it big outside the CNMI. You have Coby Santos, Dean Blake, and Kobe Mendoza. They

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE
In this file photo, Richard Babac officiates one of the youth leagues at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.